

"The Lord is our Refuge"**Psalm 46**

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at Psalm 121 and it was there that we found a great deal of comfort. I also told you that we were going to spend some time in the Psalms while we are going through this time in our lives. I believe the message today will truly bless your heart as we look into the Word of God again.

Today we are going to look at Psalm 46, but before we get into the verses, we need to see the background. I always want to know why the Psalm was written and what are the events behind the writing? This Psalm finds its roots in 2 Chronicles 20.

I. The Background

In 2 Chronicles 20 we read about King Jehoshaphat and the conflict which he faced. He was the righteous King of the two southern tribes. The problem which he faced presents itself to us in the beginning of 2 Chronicles 20.

2 Chronicles 20:1-3a

It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.

² *Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.*

³ *And Jehoshaphat feared...*

As we continue to read, Jehoshaphat goes to the Lord in prayer and I want you to see some of what he prayed to see that we too can relate to his anxiety.

2 Chronicles 20:9-13

⁹ *If, when evil cometh upon us, as the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we stand before this house, and in thy presence, (for thy name is in this house,) and cry unto thee in our affliction, then thou wilt hear and help.*

¹⁰ *And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldest not let Israel invade, when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them, and destroyed them not;*

¹¹ *Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given us to inherit.*

¹² *O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.*

¹³ *And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.*

Jehoshaphat and his people were powerless against what they were facing, and they did not know what to do.

Application:

This may be how you feel as we face the Coronavirus. You and I are powerless and honestly no one knows how to handle this. We just don't know what to do.

Then there arose a man whom the Holy Spirit came upon. His name was Jahaziel and he had a message from the Lord.

2 Chronicles 20:15-17

¹⁵ *And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.*

¹⁶ *To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.*

¹⁷ *Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.*

His message was, the battle is the Lord's. They would not even need to fight. They were to stand still and see the salvation of the Lord. He would deliver them from the enemy. Now let me show you how God did this.

2 Chronicles 20:20-24

²⁰ *And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.*

²¹ *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

²² And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.

²³ For the children of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another.

²⁴ And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped.

Many believe the ambushers were angels who confused the enemy and they therefore killed one another. The victory was therefore supernatural.

Now let us get to Psalm 46 and carry with us this background. This Psalm can be divided into 3 sections and each section ends with Selah.

Psalm 46

I. The Declaration

Notice Psalm 46:1

This verse is a heading for the entire Psalm. The Psalmist begins by telling us that God is our refuge. This means He is our shelter. The Psalmist does not place his trust in his armies, or in the walls around his city, or in his own fortress. He looks to God for his refuge.

Application:

Let me remind you that in our world we who know Jesus Christ as our Savior also have God as our Refuge. He is our shelter in the midst of the storm whatever the storm may be. There is no enemy that is greater than our God. There is no power greater than the power of our God. There may be an invisible enemy out there, but it is no match for our Refuge. When God sets up His protection around His people there is nothing which can penetrate the barrier. Let us remember the conversation between God and Satan in the book of Job.

Job 1:8-10

⁸ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

¹⁰ Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

There is also a hedge around us, and nothing can penetrate the hedge unless our God permits.

Notice Psalm 46:1 again.

Our God is also a VERY PRESENT HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE. This has a double meaning that is wonderful for us. It means that God is RIGHT THERE when we need Him, and it also has the idea that He is a well-proved help.

Application:

Since the beginning of time God has proved to be THE help for His people. He has also proved to be there right when He is needed.

Let me show you what happened the night Peter walked on the water.

Matthew 14:28-31

²⁸ And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

²⁹ And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

³⁰ But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

³¹ And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

When peter took his eyes off the Lord, he began to sink but when He cried for help Jesus was present and He saved Peter from drowning.

Notice Psalm 46:2-3

The first word here is a connective. Here the Psalmist presents several hypothetical situations. No matter how dark the situation gets, no matter how severe the disaster, no matter how strong the storm, there is no need for us to fear for our God is our Refuge. Let the worse situation happen that we can imagine and in the midst of it we can still trust in our God. He is faithful. He is closer than the devastation that surrounds us. If the earth is moved and the mountains be carried into the sea our God never moves.

Let us learn to fix our eyes upon our Lord and trust in Him with whatever comes into our lives.

II. The Comfort

Notice Psalm 46:4

This is a wonderful verse. Some say the Psalmist had in mind the River in the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 22:1-3

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

² *In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.*

³ *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*

Here is a picture of the believer's heavenly home and there will be a River there. But there is a Spiritual River that flows for God's people to drink from today. This river has coming from it many streams. The spiritual waters that flow from this river branch out into streams and whatever your need there is a stream/supply.

Is your need:

- Comfort? There is a stream.
- Strength? There is a stream.
- Grace? There is a stream.
- Wisdom? There is a stream.
- Peace? There is a stream.

Whatever the need there is an abundant supply for our lives and no matter what the circumstances are around us the flow is never disrupted.

Notice Psalm 46:4-5

This city of God is Jerusalem but there is an application here for the church. God is in the midst of His church.

Revelation 1:12-13

¹² *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

¹³ *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*

The candlesticks are the churches and Jesus is in the midst.

Notice Psalm 46:5 again.

We can apply this verse to us who make up the church. God is in the midst and so the church shall not be moved. Let me show you why the church cannot be moved.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

The church is built upon a Rock and Jesus Christ is the Rock. Notice the promise that God is there to help and that right early. The early help is so important for it was early when the attacks happened. Often at the break of light.

The encouragement here then is that our God is our Refuge and He is right there with us before the problems and the trials ever come. We are His church and He is committed to keeping His church. Sure, we shall be tried and tested but He controls everything that comes upon His church.

Notice Psalm 46:6

Here we see the power of our God. The heathen rage and the kingdoms are moved but God's Word is far more powerful. He speaks and with His Word He rules the storm.

Mark 4:37-40

³⁷ *And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.*

³⁸ *And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*

³⁹ *And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

⁴⁰ *And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?*

Notice Psalm 46:7

The Lord of HOSTS is with us. What a comfort this is! The entire heavenly host serves Him, and the angels are ministering spirits that minister to us.

Hebrews 1:13-14

¹³ But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Remember when the king of Syria sent to capture Elisha?

2 Kings 6:14-17

¹⁴ Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about.

¹⁵ And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! How shall we do?

¹⁶ And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them.

*¹⁷ And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. **And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha.***

III. The Invitation

Notice Psalm 46:8-9

Here we are invited to remember what God has done in the past. If you cannot recall anything in your life, then go to God's Word and see what He has done as He protected His people.

Notice Psalm 46:10

This verse has the idea of letting your hands down to your side. Instead of fighting in retaliation or vengeance, instead of getting the flesh involved just stop and be still. God has permitted this situation that we are facing, and He will be exalted among the heathen and in the earth somehow and in some way.

Think back to the historical setting of this Psalm. Jehoshaphat was afraid because of what he was facing. He and the people did not know what to do. As God intervened, He learned in that situation to just BE STILL and KNOW THAT HE IS GOD.

God has a plan and He is working His plan. It is out of our control so ours is not to ask why but ours is to trust Him.

Conclusion:

When Jehoshaphat was faced with the stack of the enemy, he did several things:

1. **He set himself to seek the Lord.**

2 Chronicles 20:3

³ *And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.*

2. **He encouraged himself and his people in the Word of God.**

2 Chronicles 20:20

²⁰ *And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.*

3. **He praised the Lord.**

2 Chronicles 20:21-22

²¹ *And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever.*

²² *And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.*