

Sermon: Stillness in Chaos: Our God of Refuge

Delivered by: **Josh Stringer**, pastor of discipleship; Date: **November 26, 2017**

Bible text explored: Psalm 46

- ¹God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
- ²Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,
though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,
- ³though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*
- ⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- ⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved;
God will help her when morning dawns.
- ⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
- ⁷The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*
- ⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD,
how he has brought desolations on the earth.
- ⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the chariots with fire.
- ¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God.
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!”
- ¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah* [ESV]

Review and application:

1. Threatening events have filled the news this year. How do you identify with the natural disasters described in *verses 2-3*?
Have you felt alarmed by national and international crises, summed up here in *verse 6*?
To whom or what do we look first for remedies to our “worst-case scenarios”?
2. In situation such as these, Pastor Stringer noted, what we believe about God is essential to how we react. Why (*v. 1*) can we feel safe in God’s care?
Can we be sure he will come to our aid when we are in trouble?
So what (*v. 2*) should our response be?
3. Being an inhabitant of “the city of God” (*vv. 4-6*) should bolster our confidence. How does God’s presence alter our outlook?
Enemy attacks were usually launched “when morning dawns.” What happens when God intervenes?
4. Do we think of our Savior (*v. 7 and 11*) as the commander of heaven’s armies?
When under attack, do we, like Martin Luther, see God as a mighty fortress?
5. Are we confident about who wields ultimate control (*vv. 8-9*) in the arenas of political and military power?
6. The quotation marks around *verse 10* indicate a direct message from the Lord. How will making time to step away from our world’s frantic hustle and hype help us find joy and refuge in a God who will judge the nations and rescue his people?