

**LIVING CONFIDENTLY IN A TROUBLED WORLD
PSALM 46**

FCF: Because of the sin of man, the world is always a troubled place.

Proposition: Because of the presence and purpose of God, we can live confidently in this troubled world.

Objective: To prepare God's people to live in this troubled world.

Introduction:

God's people have always traveled through troubled times. The world has been in a state of turmoil since the Garden of Eden—and will be until the end of the age.

This psalm came out of troubling times and has been a source of comfort to God's people in every generation. Martin Luther made it the basis of his great hymn, A Mighty Fortress is our God, during the tumultuous time of the Reformation. It has been a help to me on more than one occasion across the years.

The psalmist uses poetic language to describe a time of great unrest and uncertainty. Everything that has been sign of stability is suddenly moved. He is probably referring to nations, rulers, and such with the use of this poetic language. Are you going through a time of trouble? All of us are as it relates to our nation, to the economy. Some of you are as it

relates to your families, to your health, and other matters. Whatever the outward situation, you can live with confidence. You should face the uncertain future with confidence—not with fear. The Psalmist develops two great themes to support such confidence in trouble times.

I. WE CAN LIVE CONFIDENTLY BY TRUSTING IN GOD'S SUSTAINING PRESENCE.

This is where the Psalm begins. The focus is on the unfailing presence of the Lord.

1. We have the presence of God around us.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Refuge is a hiding place, a place of safety. It literally means “cliff”. He is our place of trust and safety. No trouble can come near us unless it comes through Him, the Eternal God.

2. We have the presence of God with us.

He expresses the same truth another way in the psalm. “The Lord of hosts is with us, the God of Jacob is our refuge.” He is right alongside. He is on our side against the trouble that besets us. There is encouragement in the title the Lord takes here—“The Lord of hosts”. The hosts are the armies of heaven. He has under His command all of

the forces of heaven to take up our cause against any foe that may attack.

This takes on special meaning if this psalm was inspired by the Lord's deliverance of Judah during the days of Hezekiah. To take care of the army of Assyria, the Lord sent only one angel. That one angel wiped out an army of 185,000 in one night.

It is also encouraging that he is the God of Jacob. This means that He is a God of grace and mercy.

3. We have the presence of God in us.

Another aspect of God's presence is added: There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved.

God shall help her, just at the break of dawn."

Could anything be any more complete—He is around us, with us, and in us. He is here in all of His fullness and strength.

II. WE CAN LIVE CONFIDENTLY BY TRUSTING IN GOD'S PREVAILING PURPOSE.

The purpose of God will be accomplished. He is not turned over the control of His world to any evil force. Review with me.

1. His purpose has prevailed in the past.

The writer takes a backward look and discovers that the purpose of God has prevailed. “The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. –Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth. He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two.”

2. His purpose will prevail in the future.

“Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

3. His purpose is prevailing in the present.

“Be still and know that I am God!” It is time to stop worrying, stop striving, stop fretting, stop sweating. He is all now that He has ever been. He is all now that He will be in the future. He is completely adequate to accomplish His purpose in the earth today! Trust His prevailing purpose.

British General Gordon said that he liked to read the newspaper to see what God is doing in the world today. You can see evidence of both his judgment and his mercies in the newspaper every day.