



In God We Trust

Psalm 46 2 Chronicles 20 2 Timothy 4:9-18

Matthew 10:26-33

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There has to be something called “**Election Overload**” -- *don't you think?* Or maybe call it “**Election Fatigue**.” Whenever there's a national election, it's 6 months of nonstop bombardment of how bad the country is and how evil the candidates are. It's a time when all the craziness rises to the top; everyone with a cause clamors for attention; dirt, scandal, and rumors top the headlines; and things seem like they are at a breaking point. *And don't even get me started on all the political signs on every street corner promoting these candidates!* 😊

The election reminds us that we live in a troubled world of uncertainty; these are the End Times and the Last Days and they are full of evil, problems, and trouble¹. *There is no promise from God that we are exempt from any of these things happening to us or our families.*

The Promise from God is **not** that you are exempt, but that you **will never face them alone**, and that you never have to fear them because ultimately, they can never hurt you spiritually.

That is the message of Psalm 46, the Psalm that teaches us that God is our Mighty Fortress in this troubled world of uncertainty, evil, and trouble. Take a look at the first 3 verses:

¹ The results of the election cannot change the evil, problems, and trouble in this world – not matter what the candidate says and promises. If your candidate DID NOT win the election, don't fall into despair or depression, but put your hope in God and trust in Him. If your candidate DID win the election, don't put your hope in them and their promises; rather put your hope in God and His promises! Remember Psalm 146:2-3: “I will praise the Lord all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. **Do not put your trust in princes,** in human beings, who cannot save.”

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Psalms 46:1-3

The first word in this Psalm is “God”: the Hebrew word is ELOHIM, which means the *All-powerful God of Creation*. He is your refuge and strength, your “mighty fortress”, your safe place in this changing world. You know the *All-powerful God of Creation*, as your **Father in Heaven**, who knows you, loves you, and Who watches over your life.

The Psalmist then lists some worst case scenarios --- he exaggerates the points to show you that no matter what might happen, you never have to fear. **He talks about changes in creation:** the earth giving way and the mountains falling into the sea; and the oceans violently churning and surging out of control. **These are hypothetical scenarios.** These things would undo the 3rd day of Creation; if these things actually happened, it would return the world to chaos, as it was before God created the world. **These things will never happen, but even if they did, you still have no reason to fear.**

The point is clear: No matter what happens, even your worst case scenario, you do not need to fear, because the God of Creation, your *Father in Heaven*, is your refuge and strength; He is your “Mighty Fortress” and your safe place: He is an ever present help in times of trouble. God will give you strength to face even your worst case scenario!

- **King Jehoshaphat** and the Israelites learned that in 2 Chronicles 20, the Old Testament story we heard today. Even though the army marching towards them was massive, God taught them that they do not have to fear. God protected His people. God was their refuge, and the Lord helped them in their time of trouble. He was their “Mighty Fortress”.

- **St Paul** learned the same thing when he was under attack by false teachers. St Paul wrote, *“The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to His Heavenly Kingdom (4:18).”* God was his refuge, and God helped him in his time of trouble. The Lord was St. Paul’s “Mighty Fortress.”

The same is true for you. As you live your life in this uncertain and dangerous world, the God of Creation, your Creator, whom you know as Your Father in Heaven, is your refuge, strength and safe place: He is an ever present help in times of trouble. He is your “Mighty Fortress.”

The clearest place to see God’s protection and care for you is at the cross of Christ.

⁷The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46:7

Here the word “**LORD**” is capitalized, indicating that God’s personal name is used. This LORD is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who we know as Jesus². He is with you and He is your fortress.

A fortress is a place of safety and shelter; it protects you from danger. In a very real way, Jesus and His cross are your fortress. He is a place of safety and shelter from God’s Wrath and Judgment. Because of sin, you deserve to face the Wrath of God in its fiercest form; and stand under the full weight of God’s Judgment because of your sin.

However **Jesus protects you like a mighty fortress.** He stands between you and God’s wrath and judgment – He is actually

² The word LORD is the divine name I AM, and it is applied to Jesus. This Name is used by Jesus to teach that He is the One, True and Only God in John 8:58. Jesus is I AM incarnate; Jesus is Immanuel: God with us.

and **literally** lifted up between you and God's Wrath. He takes God's wrath and judgement upon Himself, in your place on the cross, so that you are spared. Because of Jesus, His life, death and resurrection, you are safe. He protects you from God's Wrath and judgment.

The image of a "Mighty Fortress" is a Gospel image that describes the work of Christ on our behalf. It is a picture of safety and salvation. Just as God delivers you from your sin, so too he will deliver you in all areas of your life as well. That's what Psalm 46 teaches us.

Life or death cannot separate you from God and His Love.

- **If you live**, then whatever you have to face *the Lord will be with you*, strengthen you and help you through it.
- **If you die**, *God will take you to Himself in Heaven*, where you will live with Him forever in His eternal Kingdom
Either way, you are safe, secure in the presence of the Lord!

When you have this as your *worldview*; and this is how you *understand life and your place in it*, then the evil, problems, and trouble of the world look completely different. **You live your life in the Lord's hands and under His care.** Regardless of who's elected to a political office, regardless of the crazy news that we are bound to hear about, and regardless of the ever increasing depravity and wickedness in the world, **God is our Refuge**, the solid rock on which we stand, and He is an ever present help in times of trouble!

Today *rejoice*, find *comfort*, and be *strengthened*,
the Lord Almighty is with you!

The God of Jacob is your Mighty Fortress!

AMEN!

Lord God, you are our refuge and strength, and ever present help in times of trouble. We thank you for leading our country through this election cycle, and we ask that you bless and guide our new president and elected officials to serve you honorably and justly. Teach us not to put our trust in them, but to put our trust and our hope in you alone. Grant us to live our lives knowing and believing that you are our refuge and strength, and ever present help in all times of trouble. We pray this in Jesus our Savior's name, Amen.

Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, ³ though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. ⁴ There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. ⁵ God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. ⁶ Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts. ⁷ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. ⁸ Come and see the works of the LORD, the desolations he has brought on the earth. ⁹ He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields 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." ¹¹ The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

2 Timothy 4:9-18

Do your best to come to me quickly, ¹⁰ for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, because he is helpful to me in my ministry. ¹² I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. ¹³ When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments. ¹⁴ Alexander the metalworker did me a great deal of harm. The Lord will repay him for what he has done. ¹⁵ You too should be on your guard against him, because he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them. ¹⁷ But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion's mouth. **18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

2 Chronicles 20, *selected verses*

After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. ²Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea . . .

³Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. ⁵Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard ⁶and said:

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. ⁷Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? ⁸They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, ⁹‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

¹⁰“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. ¹¹See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. ¹²Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. **We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.**” ¹³All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord. ¹⁴Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah . . . as he stood in the assembly. ¹⁵He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who

live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s. ¹⁶ Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.’” ²⁰ . . . Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.” ²¹ After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.” ²² As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. ²³ The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another. ²⁴ When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. ²⁵ So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. ²⁶ On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the Lord. This is why it is called the Valley of Berakah to this day.

Matthew 10:26-33

Jesus said “So do not be afraid of them, for there is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. 28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.[b] 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. 32 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.