

SERMON ON PSALM 46

I. Text: Psalm 46:1-11; Key verses: 1, 4, 8.

Verse 1: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

Verse 4: There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.

Verse 8: Come, behold the works of the Lord, what desolations he hath made in the earth."

II. Major Objective: Supportive

III. Central Idea: In the midst of any calamity God has been, and now is, and will always be the shelter and strength of His people because they put their trust in Him.

IV. Subject: In God We Trust.

or
"Our Trust in God"

V. Thesis and Goal:

1. Proposition: Trust in God will give confidence to the heart and mind in the midst of trouble as well as in time of ease.

2. Specific goal: To get the people to have confidence and place their complete trust in God.

VI. Introduction:

My subject is, "In God We Trust". Hezekiah is king of Judah. The walls of Jerusalem are surrounded by the hosts of Sennacherib. What a mighty it is; they have

carried everything before them like a storm. The people of Judah are as birds in a cage. Sennacherib sends a letter to Hezekiah and says, "You need not trust in your God! These are the people that thought their gods would deliver them, but look at them now. The best thing for you to do is to surrender the city and save what you can." The man of God takes the letter down to the temple and there he spreads the letter out before God and prays. "O Lord of hosts...incline thine ear, O Lord, and hear; open thine eyes, O Lord, and see...save us from his hand." During the night an angel of the Lord visits the camps of the Assyrians; and the next morning we see 185,000 soldiers of Sennacherib's army lying dead in the dirt. Sennacherib flees and never comes back. God heard his people and vindicated their confidence in Him. It was at this particular time that the 46th Psalm was written. This is a song of experience. God was their refuge and strength in time of trouble. It has always been so. It was trouble for Joseph as he went down to Egypt as a slave, but God sat him on a throne. Daniel purposed in his heart to serve Jehovah as it was certainly a dark hour when he was cast into the lion's den. But there God closed the mouth of those beasts and delivered him. In the fiery furnace the three Hebrew children find one like unto the Son of God walking with them. The Apostles rejoiced in persecution. With backs bleeding and lives threatened they were happy to suffer. Paul and Silas in the midnight of despair prayed and sang praises to God. And God shook them out of their dungeon. Peter, writing to persecuted Christians of his day said, "If ye be reproached for the name of Christ,

happy are ye." In the dark hours of the Reformation, when the Protestant causes seemed to waver in the balance, Luther wrote his famous hymn, "A Fortress Strong is God Our Lord," founded on this 46th Psalm. Today men must still find that their trust and confidence is in God their refuge and strength.

VII. Body:

I. The Challenge of Our Trust ^{in God} is the Defiance of Fear.
(Psalm 46:1-3)

The armies are about; the winds rage; calamity and tribulation are at our door; yet we are without fear. Our hearts are filled with perfect peace.

1. We Do Not Fear Because God is Our Shelter. v. 1

He is the canopy over our heads; our refuge and stronghold. How often it is that we go out to face life full of hope and confidence, but before long adversity has turned us on our heels. Where shall we go? What will be our hiding place? God is our refuge. He will protect us from the fiery darts of Satan, sin and suffering.

The great tragedy of this hour is that men have heaped up false refuges, refuges of lies, which the hail shall sweep away and they will be exposed to danger and destruction. God is the only true refuge. Hide in Him.

2. We do not fear because God is our strength. v. 1.

We are not always to hide and cower before the onslaught of the enemy. We are not defenseless weaklings at the mercy of the princes of darkness. We are to go out and conquer. God is our strength. He is our strength that sustains us, comforts us, arms us, and carries us over the threshold of the enemy!

Additional Scripture: Romans 8:37

II. The Ground of Our Trust ^{in God} is the Presence of God. vs. 4-7.

Our trust is not in something yet future; we do not look to something distant for deliverance. Our help is ever present, near us at all times. The world all around may be in tumult, but in God's presence there is peace and assurance.

1. God's Presence gives joy. v. 4

The gently flowing stream is an emblem of God's presence. The river is refreshing and never-failing. The deserts without are barren and dry, but His Divine grace yields refreshment and consolation to those inside the city of God.

2. God's presence makes us immovable. v. 5

The kingdoms of the earth are moved. To be sure Sennacherib's army was moved. But not the people of God. God is in our midst making us more stable

than the solid mountains, more secure than the kingdoms of the earth. We shall stand as long as our Lord shall stand.

Additional Scripture: Psalm 125:1,2

III. The Justification of Our Trust ^{in God} is the Mighty Works of Our God. vs. 8-11

The world calls us foolish for trusting in that which we cannot see. They demand something that can be captured on paper and reasoned out by all the laws of logic. But faith can never be measured by the slide-rule. But ~~it~~ ^{God} does manifest itself. Our trust is vindicated. Let the world behold the mighty power of our God.

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1. God makes the Wars to Cease. v. 9.

The world has tried and failed. Their organizations, unions, treaties, peace pacts, and summit talks have not brought peace to a fear-filled world. We cannot stop wars. But God can and will! He will give peace and repose to his people. The weapons of men are useless against God's plan. We trust Him because only He can make the wars to cease.

2. God will be exalted above the earth. v. 10.

The world may as well sit down and cease its vain efforts. God is the Lord and He means to

show Himself such. Pride has risen in the hearts of men like a rolling snowball, getting larger and larger, to the extent that he is about ready to climb heaven and sit with God on the throne. But they will learn that they are but dust.

What a source of comfort and joy. This puts God's people on shouting ground. We need not let this old world get us down for someday God will bare His arm of omnipotence and will be exalted above all the earth. And we shall reign with Him!

VIII. Conclusion:

It is no wonder that this Psalm has been such a blessing to the hearts of God people ever since it was first sung in the temple courts. This ought to give us courage. We have a God who is able to meet every difficulty. Our faith in Him is never disappointed. Put it to the test: Acknowledge Him in all thy ways, and He shall direct thy paths. He is not far from everyone of us. As John Wesley lay dying he could be understood with difficulty when he attempted to speak. At last, with all the strength he had, he cried out, "The best of all, God is with us." Again, raising his hand and waving it in triumph, he exclaimed with thrilling effort, "The best of all, God is with us". This is the best of all; and is we have this, what else do we need? "The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our Refuge."

IX. Invitation: 1. To Christians: Rededicate and recon-

secrete themselves to God, trusting Him for every need.

2. To the Lost: to trust Christ as the only refuge from the judgment of God.

X. Classification: Textual