

DSC Community Group
Sermon Summary, 02/26/2012

Title: "Nothing to Fear, God is With Us"
Series: "Pour Out Your Heart to Him: A Study Through the Psalms"

Text: Psalm 46
Preacher: Trent Hunter

We have nothing to fear:

1. Our God is a Fortress (1-3, 7, 11)

- This imagery of a fortress, or refuge, is replete in the Psalms. Psalm 18:2 - rock, fortress, refuge, shield, stronghold.
- God is a fortress from nature (2-3) and from the nations (6). In other words, everything. Trouble may still get to us, but we will not fear it for we are ultimately safe from harm in Christ.
- Response: Proverbs 18:10 - "The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe." This is a picture of salvation, and of every day in the Christian life.

2. Our God is a River (4-5)

- Rivers bring life - the first need of undeveloped countries.
- "City of God" is a reference to Jerusalem (cf. Ps. 48:1-2); "dwelling of the most high" is a reference to the temple. The mountains move into the heart of the sea, but God's city does not move.
- Response: God is the river we were made to drink from: Ps. 42:1-2.

3. Our God is a Warrior (6-9)

- God puts an end to the warring of nations and frustrates their plans (Ps. 33:10) by putting and end to the injustices that start and sustain war, and by destroying the weapons of war.
- All of the world's many wars are simply expressions of the one long war taking place between Genesis 3:15 and Revelation 21. Psalm 2 gives us a window into this struggle, speaking of the rage of nations, and the coming reign of God's king and son.
- Response: We're to "behold the works of the Lord."

4. Our God is a Promise Keeper (10-11)

- The "God of Jacob" is a promise making and keeping God. Genesis 12:1-3; 35:10-12. This God made a promise in Genesis 3:15 that he is bringing about through Abraham's family, through Jacob.
- God's greatest promise is that His name would be exalted in the earth - this ground for all the other promises God makes that concern us. Notice, "I will" x2.
- Jesus is our fortress, our refuge, Mt. 10:28; Ps 2:7-12; Jesus is our live giving river, Jn. 4:13-14, Phil. 4:4-7; Jesus is our victorious warrior, Heb. 2:14-17, Col. 2:15.

Romans 8:31, 35-39

Sample Questions

- What is your greatest fear? What fear, though perhaps it is more subtle, is your most life complicating fear? For example, the fear of rejection or of shame. What is an example of how that fear of trouble causes trouble of its own in your life?
- What of the four images discussed helps you take comfort in the presence of God the most? God as a fortress, a river, a warrior, or a promise keeper? Perhaps you have a story from a tragedy you have suffered or are going through into which Psalm 46 speaks.
- What does Psalm 46 have to say to us as we head into an election season, and as we get news almost daily of trouble between nations and in the world's largest economies?
- Perhaps you would use this prayer today, or this week to carry your fears and anxieties to God, and to help your heart believe that God is with you if you are in Christ.