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The
Songs
46

PSALMS - The SONGS

Forty-six

The LORD of hosts is with Israel!

READ AND OBSERVE

Read through **Psalm 46** and mark every reference to the LORD, or God, including all pronouns and synonyms, with a red triangle.

Read through **Psalm 46** and mark every reference to the nation of Israel, along with all pronouns and synonyms (i.e. our, we, us, Jacob, etc.), with a blue star of David.

Read through **Psalm 46** and mark every reference to the nations, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a purple flag.

Read through **Psalm 46** and mark every reference to the city of God, along with all pronouns and synonyms, with a gold box.

Read through **Psalm 46** and underline any phrases that are repeated with purple.

Read through **Psalm 46** and underline every physical action that God takes on behalf of Israel (i.e. He raised His voice, He burns the chariots, etc.).

Read through **Psalm 46** and divide the passage into the following segments. Mark and title these segments in your text using brackets in the margin.

1. Israel will not fear—God is her very present help
2. Jerusalem is the city of God—He is in the midst of her and He will help her
3. God has helped His people—He will be exalted in the earth

READ AND ANSWER

Psalm 46:1-3

Who is this Psalm about?

What does the psalmist say about God?

1.

2.

3.

Who is the “our”?

Whose trouble is referred to?

When Israel is in trouble, what should she not do?

What decision does the psalmist say Israel has made?

The psalmist gives some extreme situations which would normally cause fear. What are they?

1.

2.

3.

4.

What catastrophic phenomenon do these conditions describe?



It is interesting...

**God, in the past, has used earthquakes and storms to judge and punish.
God still does today, although most people do not want to acknowledge it.
God has promised that He will bring about horrific earthquakes and storms
as the day of His appearing draws near.
His Word warns us...**

**Many of the Psalms are prophetic in nature.
Jesus told us so...**

**We would do well to observe them closely.
The day of His appearing is indeed drawing nigh...**

Psalm 46:4-7

Does the subject change in **verse 4**? Or does it continue?

What is the connection between the cataclysmic events of **verses 2** through **3** and **verse 4**?

Where is the city of God?

What is the name of the city of God?

What is in the city of God?

What do the streams of this river do?



**Who, or what, is the city of God?
Who, or what, is the river in the city of God?**

In certain cross-references
we can see the empirical earthly side of the meaning of this river.

Psalm 65:9

*You visit the earth and cause it to overflow; You greatly enrich it;
The stream of God is full of water;
You prepare their grain, for thus You prepare the earth.*

Other cross-references show us the spiritual side of the waters.

Isaiah 8:6

*Inasmuch as these people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah
And rejoice in Rezin and the son of Remaliah...*

Psalm 36:8-9

*They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house;
And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.
For with You is the fountain of life;
In Your light we see light.*

Others still,
show us both the spiritual side and the earthly side
of the city on the new earth.

Revelation 21:10-11; 22:1-2a

*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain,
and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.
Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.*

*Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal,
coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb,
in the middle of its street.”*

Our verse at hand, Psalm 46:4,
shows us a little bit of both the spiritual side and the earthly side.

The physical city, whether it be on earth or in heaven,
can also show us the residents of the city.
(Referring to New York City speaks of the people
as well as the geographical location)
Even while we are here on earth,
and even if we are not in Jerusalem, Israel,
believers can know that we are part of the spiritual city of God.

Perhaps there is no better collection of cross-references to explain this spiritual city than those found in Hebrews.

Hebrews 11:8-10; 13-16

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

For those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a country of their own.

And indeed if they had been thinking of that country from which they went out, they would have had opportunity to return.

But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.

Hebrews 12:22-24

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.

Hebrews 13:14

For here we do not have a lasting city, but we are seeking the city which is to come.

**What about the river whose streams make glad the city of God?
Where is it and how does it make us glad?**

**Since believers can know they are part of the spiritual city of God,
they have but to avail themselves of its waters of life.
The grace of God never fails to reach us, wherever we are.
The waters of life are available to us in God's Word and through His Spirit.**

**The waters of life flow gently and unceasingly from God—
even if the earth should change...
even though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea...
even though the waters of the earth roar and foam...
even though the mountains quake at its swelling pride...
no matter what...**

We can be glad...

Whose dwelling places are in the city of God?

How are God's dwelling places described?

Why are God's dwelling places in the city of God?

Will the city of God be moved (or shaken)?

Why not?

1.

2.

When will God help the city of God?

Is this talking about each and every morning, but not during the day or in the evening?
When will the morning dawn?

How does God help her? What will happen?

1.

2.

3.

4.

Who is with the people of God—Israel?

What does the Name, “LORD of hosts” mean?

Who is Israel’s stronghold?



What is a stronghold?

The Hebrew word for “stronghold” is *misgab* and means a cliff or other lofty inaccessible place.

Figuratively it refers to a refuge.

It carries the meaning of a place of defense, such as a high fort or tower.

According to the text, why does Israel need a stronghold?

Describe how the God of Jacob is Israel’s stronghold.

How will God be their stronghold in the last days?

Psalm 46:8-11

What is the psalmist inviting others to do?

Who is he inviting to behold the works of the LORD?

What works does he invite them to behold?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Has the LORD done this yet? (Have wars all over the earth ceased?)

How will the LORD make the wars to cease to the end of the earth?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What does the LORD command the nations of the world to stop doing?



The Hebrew word for “cease striving” is *rafah* and means to sink, let down, cease, or abate.

**This is not encouraging anyone to relax.
This is God, speaking directly to the nations of the world,
threatening them to discontinue their efforts against Him and His people!**

Why can He dictate what the peoples of the earth can and cannot do?

**It's simple...
and they better get it through their heads once and for all...**

He is God!

What does the LORD command the nations of the world to see, realize, and accept?



**The Hebrew word for “God” is *Elohim*
and refers to the Supreme God.**

What amazing proclamation will the LORD make?

- 1.
- 2.

What will Israel confidently and jubilantly exclaim when the LORD sets Himself up as ruler over the earth?

- 1.
- 2.

READ AND REASON

This particular **Psalm** is prophetic in nature, like so very many others...

The trouble for Israel is the time period known as Jacob's Distress, or the Great Tribulation. How can we know this? Let's look at **Psalm 46** and reason through it together.

In the first section, **verses 1** through **3**, the nation of Israel is in grave danger. Although this could be said of her many times throughout her history, we need to let the **Psalm** itself tell us when this trouble is occurring.

What information do **verses 2** and **3** give us about either the trouble Israel is in or the time when it is occurring? It describes a scene of unprecedented horror on the earth—the planet itself is changing due to cataclysmic events. Earthquakes are so powerful they are causing mountains to fall right into the seas and the oceans of the earth to roar and foam. Although we could venture to say something like this might have happened in the past, we would have to acknowledge that it could not have been global; it would have to have been confined to a very small location on the earth. This seismic event, however, will encompass the entire globe and actually cause the earth, itself, to change.

Perhaps some might say the psalmist is simply being hypothetical—I would disagree based on the whole counsel of the Word of God as well on the context of the **Psalms** itself. These events will actually occur in the future. The first section refers to the events preceding the end. The second section refers to the great and final war in which the armies of the world camp at the valley of Armageddon and march against Jerusalem. The final section refers to the outcome of that battle—Messiah’s victory and His exaltation over all the nations of the earth.

The second section, **verses 4** through **7**, deal with the people of God. I believe the reference is to the people of God, especially the righteous remnant who remain in Jerusalem during the time of the Great Tribulation. All the nations of the world will come against her at that time—she will be within an inch of her life—but God will save her at the last moment. Their Savior, Messiah, will come and put an end to the anti-christ and his minions. He will defeat the armies of the world single-handedly with velocity and power never seen before. He will even cause another great earthquake to happen in the city of Jerusalem and cause its topography to change. During the siege on Jerusalem, before Messiah arrives, Israel will need to remember that God is their refuge and strength—a very present help in trouble. They will need to steadfastly believe that the LORD of hosts is with them; that the God of Jacob is their stronghold.

The final section, **verses 8** through **11**, reveals the aftereffects of Messiah’s victory. The psalmist is inviting all to come and see what the LORD has accomplished. He has brought desolations to those who came against His beloved Israel. He has put an end to wars on the earth. (That will not happen until Messiah ends the Great Tribulation and begins His Millennial Reign.) He will at that time be exalted among the nations over all the earth—again, this has not happened yet, and will not, until the end.

At that time Israel will confidently sing praises to their King, “The LORD of hosts is with us! The God of Jacob is our stronghold!”

~ Segment by Segment

Try titling these segments yourself.
Ask God to help you.

Verses 1-3

Verses 4-7

Verses 8-11

~ Purpose of Psalm 46

Try to identify the purpose of Psalm 46.
The purpose simply states “*why* the Psalmist wrote the Psalm”.

~ Theme of Psalm 46

Try giving Psalm 46 a title by identifying its theme.
The theme simply states “*what* the Psalm is about”.
