

CALL TO PRAYER - Christ said that His house should be a House of Prayer for all nations

Haiti – assniation of President, earthquake, storms - the influence of Johnson’s mission
Afghanistan – courage, discernment, persecution of Christians, pray for a way of escape, gospel

Psalm 46 - Selah while Unsettled

INTRO – it has been quite a tumultuous time for our world lately. Earthquakes and storms. Wars ending but producing more strife and less peace & safety. The ground is shaking, nations are shaking, wars are ceasing but causing more turmoil. These are big global things that are on our mind but you may be in the midst of a big personal thing...your world may be shaking. Ps 46 is a balm for the troubled soul. It is a quiet rest amid the loud and crazy world. The Psalm doesn’t hide the turmoil but it shows us our hiding place in the midst of it. It calls out over the decibels of destruction and says for us to be still and know...

Selah is Hebrew term with an uncertain meaning. Some think it is pause- “*Intermission*” in LXX. This could be a break/rest in the song for instrumental play so the singer and hearer can contemplate what was just sung. We all need a *selah* especially when thing are unsettled. Ps 46 doesn’t dismiss the destructions in life but it gives us instructions on how to *selah* when we (or world) are unsettled. This psalm mentions earthquakes, it mentions wars, it mentions shaking cities but is calls us to the unshakeable truth the God is the God of the storm and we can *selah* if we hide in the eye of the storm...for which He is in control

- Title – For the choir director - the psalms are inspired songs and sacred hymns.
 - Music is the language of the soul
 - The Psalms are a great place to go the feel the emotion of a moment
 - They resonate with real life. Poetic expression of praise in the midst of problems
- Ps. 46:1
 - God is our refuge. Do you have a storm shelter?
 - God is our hiding place Psalm 32:7 Prov. 18:10
 - God is our strength do you feel weak?
 - We run to HIM in our weakness to get strength Eph. 6:10
 - When we are weak then we can be strong 2 Cor. 12:9-10
 - A very present help in times of trouble
 - The disciples were in a storm but Jesus was in boat with them -He was very close
 - God is there and is as close as a prayer Psalm 145:18 - near
- Ps. 46:2-3
 - These verses describe a great earthquake and churning of the seas
 - The people of Haiti must have felt helpless when land and sea were roaring
 - “...the earth changes” this is talking about topography but what about society and your reality? I have never felt a big earthquake but it does feel like the earth is changing.
 - “Therefore we will not fear, though...”
 - The antidote to being afraid is to fear God. Trembling is a time to trust Psalm 56:3
 - Jesus was near and in the boat
- **Selah** Stop and Ponder this contemplate and be comforted.
 - Praising in the quaking Paul and Silas singing in prison and quake - 46?

- Ps. 46:4-5
 - This section raises our thoughts to heaven (Jerusalem or New Jerusalem?)
 - The City of God with the river of life flowing from it (Rev. 22:1-2)
 - 46:5a – “*God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved*”
 - When the cities of man shake remember that the City of God is secure
 - Our unsettling and insecure world should remind us of a sure and settled heaven
 - Heb. 12:28
 - Phil 3:20 – our citizenship is in the unshakable heaven (12 foundations)
- Ps. 46:6-7
 - The turmoil of nations and kingdoms is the result of the King raising His voice
 - The earth melts and kingdoms fall at the command of the King of kings
 - The LORD of hosts is with us the God of armies (heaven and earth)
 - If God is for us then who can be against us? Rom. 8:31
 - The God of Jacob is our stronghold.
 - We hide in Him in the midst of His storm and take refuge in the eye....He commands
- **SELAH** - Pause and Ponder this
 - Think about the security of heaven over against the insecurity of earth
 - Find security in God's sovereignty. God's voice orders all things
- Psalm 46:8-9
 - The psalmist bids us in his song to open our eyes and see what God has done
 - This was probably inspired after a great battle and war
 - M.H. “war is a tragedy which commonly destroys the stage it is acted on”
 - The effects of war (destruction/carnage/ suffering/ death) get our attention
 - Observe the desolation and see what God has wrought. Isaiah 45:6-7 Eccles. 7:13-14
 - Grand Canyon is an awesome display of what God wrought (Afghanistan?)
- Ps. 46:10-11
 - The more common rendering “be still and know that I am God”
 - The shocking things that are happening in our world should stop us in our tracks
 - We should be still and Selah. The desolations should give us pause...
 - We are to consider and know that God is really God
 - God is not an old grandpa in sky wringing His hands and wondering....trying
 - God is God. His Providence orders & rules all Rom. 11:36
 - He is to be exalted among the nation and throughout the earth
 - He is the LORD of hosts (hosts/armies of heaven and earth)
 - He is with us! He is our stronghold
- **Selah**
 - Consider and ponder that God is our refuge when the earth is reeling
 - He rises to shake the earth hide in the eye of the storm
 - Consider that the City of God is secure when the city of man shakes
 - Ponder the things that God has done. The scars of our world and that are on history and in this present hour should give us pause and cause us to praise
 - Rom. 11:36 God speaks to us from the storm (Job 38:1)
 - Selah when you are unsettled. Be still and know that He is God
 - Take refuge in the eye of storm which He commands