

Psalm 46 — “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God!”

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;...
Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing.
You ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same;
and he must win the battle. — Martin Luther

God as a “Refuge” implies:

(1) inability of man (2) mercy of God (3) availability of Christ (4) hostility of evil (5) security in Truth

THESIS — This Psalm of Confidence tells us to Trust in God the King At All Times! We'll see 3 stanzas of the hymn.

I. YOU ARE SAFE WITH GOD (1-3)

A. God is your *Refuge*

II. YOU ARE SATISFIED IN GOD (4-7)

A. God is a satisfying *River*

III. YOU ARE STILL BEFORE GOD (8-11)

A. God is your *Kingly Ruler*

B. In trouble: FLEE TO THE CHARACTER OF GOD HIMSELF.

We must focus and drive home the 'refrain/chorus' (v.7,11) –**1. The POWER of God = he is the LORD of HOSTS**

"The resources of the Almighty are infinite. He is the LORD of hosts. He commands and the stars fight his battles. He sends legions of angels where he will, and one angel destroys in 1 night an army of 185,000 soldiers. All plagues and storms and earthquakes, all causes and all effects, are under HIS control" (William Plumer)

2. The PRESENCE of God = he is WITH us

David Dickson: "The strength of the Church stands in renouncing her own and fleeing unto God's Strength!"

3. The PROTECTION of God = he is our STRONGHOLD**4. The PROMISE of God = he's the God of JACOB.**

The dying words of John Wesley: **"The best of all is, God is with us!"**

A MIGHTY FORTRESS

A Woodenly-Literal Translation from Luther's original German [by John Piper]

[*Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*]

A strong castle is our God,
A good defense and weapon.
He helps us become free from every misery
That has now affected us.
The old evil enemy
Is now in earnestness with his intents.
Great Power and much deception
Is his cruel armor.
On earth is not its likeness.

With our power nothing is accomplished.
We are very soon lost.
The right man fights for us
Whom God himself has chosen.
Do you ask who that is?
His name is Jesus Christ,
The Lord of hosts,
And there is no other God.
The battlefield he must hold.

Even if the world were full of Devils
And would want to swallow us up,
We would not thus fear so very much.
We will nevertheless succeed.
The prince of this world,
How bitterly he might pretend to be,
Nevertheless will not do anything to us
Because he is judged.
A little word can fell him.

That word they shall let stand
And will have no thanks for it.
He is with us according to plan
With his Spirit and gifts.
If they take the body,
Goods, honor, child, and wife,
Let them go away.
They will have no profit.
The kingdom must remain for us.