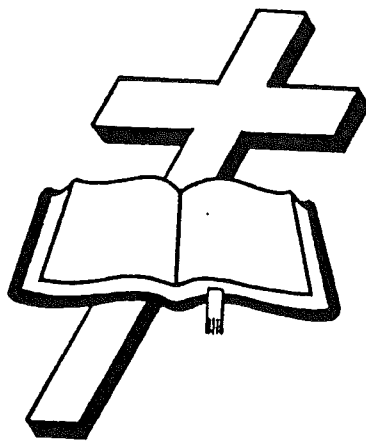


# THERE IS A RIVER

(Resources From God That Pour Confidence Into The Heart)  
Psalm 46:1-11



## “THE GOD OF JACOB”

- ◆ Is Our Refuge
- ◆ Is Our Strength
- ◆ Is Our Help

“There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God”  
(Psalm 46:4)

Bill Kirk

# “THERE IS A RIVER”

**Text:** Psalm 46:1-11

**Subject:** Divine Resources That Pour Confidence Into The Heart

## Introduction

- ◆ Psalm 46 is a great word of consolation.
- ◆ It reflects upon the invasion of Sennacherib into Jerusalem.
- ◆ It's a word that builds faith for anyone under siege.
- ◆ It removes all fear and worry for those experiencing difficult circumstances.
- ◆ It is a Psalm that reveals God whenever we find ourselves in the midst of “trouble”.

## So Much So...

...That it was this Psalm that inspired Martin Luther to write his reformation hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” after the lifting of the siege of Vienna in 1529.

**Question:** Why was Psalm 46 so inspiring to Luther?

**Question:** How is Psalm 46 so helpful to us?

**Question:** What does it mean that, “The God of Jacob is our help”?

**Question:** What produces “fearless” Christians?

**Question:** What is our “river” of support?

**Question:** Why can't God ever be “late”?

**Question:** Why is it imperative that we learn to “be still”?

## (3 Great Resources For All)

### I. God Provides Us With A “Confidence” (Vs. 1-3)

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” (v. 1)

“Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea” (v. 2)

**Question:** What truth about God removes all fear as we journey through life?

#### #1. God is our refuge

**Fact:** Armies are not our refuge!

**Fact:** Fortresses are not our refuge!

**Fact:** Mortals are not our refuge!

**Question:** Why is God alone to be our refuge?

**Answer:** Because all power belongs to God!

“All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18)

**Question:** What is a refuge?

**Answer:** A refuge is a place to run to for safety and security.

“The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe”. (Prov. 18:10)

**Question:** How does a great prayer life free you from anxiety and worry?

**Answer:** Because the degree of coming to God as your refuge, will be the degree of safety and security you find inwardly.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ Our refuge is not some material comfort or security.
- ◆ Our refuge is God Himself who responds to those who put their trust in Him.

### #2. God is our strength

**Question:** What does it mean that God is our strength?

**Answer:** It means that God's enabling ability will be equal to all of your emergencies.

"Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10) means:

- ◆ To receive strength from outside of ourselves.
- ◆ To receive strength from the hand of the Lord.
- ◆ To place ourselves (each day) in the place where Christ can pour His strength into us.

### (In Other Words)

- ◆ God wants us to be strong "in the Lord".
- ◆ God wants us to participate in "His strength".
- ◆ God wants us to wait upon Him continually.

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint". (Is. 40:31)

### #3. God is our help

"...A very present help in trouble" (v. 1)

**Question:** Why is this important to know?

**Answer:** Because the enemy of your soul wants you to believe that God is distant from you when all seems not so well.

### (When The Truth Is)

- ◆ God never withdraws himself from His afflicted.
- ◆ God is never so close as when we need His grace the most.

### ("Very Present" (v. 1) Means:)

- ◆ That God is more nearly present than even the trouble itself!!!

**Question:** Pastor, what's the big deal about putting my faith and confidence in the refuge, strength and help of God?

**Answer:** The big deal is the result of such faith:

### "Therefore will not we fear" (v. 2) OR

- ◆ Sennacherib (and his army) was spreading terror and commotion among the people.
- ◆ Satan is spreading tumult like a raging fire through the hearts of people everywhere.
- ◆ Yet, God has ordained and planned and provided for a tranquil church in the midst of a tempestuous world!

## II. God Provides Us With A "River" (Vs. 4-7)

"There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God" (v. 4) (Pg. 2 of 4)

“God is in the midst of her...and will help her, and that **right early**”. (v. 5)

“The **God of Jacob** is our refuge” (v. 7)

**Question:** What is it that produces deep gladness of heart (even in the midst of unsure circumstances?)

**#1. Abundant refreshment**

“There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad” (v. 4)

- ◆ For Hezekiah, he was glad at the cutting off of the water supply from the invading army of Sennacherib (and securing the water for Jerusalem).
- ◆ This river of water supplied to Jerusalem, is a picture, emblem or symbol of what God provides for His church:
  - #1. It is a river that flows from God to you.
  - #2. It is a stream of grace that covers all sin.
  - #3. It is a rich supply of needed blessing.
  - #4. It is a holy love that produces change.
  - #5. It is a magnet that connects our affections with Gods.
  - #6. It is a fellowship and communion that is full and deep.
  - #7. It is a “thirst quencher” in a dry and barren land:

- ◆ “If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink” (John 7:37)
- ◆ “Every one that is thirsty, come to the waters” (Isaiah 55:1)
- ◆ “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation” (Isaiah 12:3)

**(“The Streams Shall Make Glad” Means:)**

**Fact:** The degree of our thirst will be the degree of our joy!

**Fact:** The degree of our drinking will be the degree of our contentment.

**Fact:** The degree of living water will be the degree of our strength.

**#2. Perfect timing**

“God will help, and that right early” (v. 5)

**Question:** Ever think that God was distant?

**Question:** Ever thing that God was late?

**Question:** Ever think that God was allowing more than you could handle?

**(Hear The Psalmist)**

“God is in the midst of her; she (the church) shall not be moved; God shall help her and that right early”.

**Fact:** God is present right where He finds you.

**Fact:** God is stable so that nothing can move you.

**Fact:** God is committed to help you fulfill His will.

**Fact:** God is on time and can never be late.

**(“And That Right Early” Means:)**

- ◆ God’s deliverance of Israel from Sennacherib came “early in the morning” as 185,000 Assyrians were slain. (II Kings 19:35)
- ◆ One angel of the Lord produced “all dead corpses” just in time for Israel.

## **“And That Right Early” (Means:)**

- #1. That God is never tardy in helping His own.
- #2. That God is not slack concerning His promises.
- #3. That God is always aware to what threatens His beloved.
- #4. That God’s apparent delays are not delays at all.
- #5. That God has the power to defeat every enemy assault.
- #6. That God is not nervous over the “raging of the ungodly”.
- #7. That God has already guaranteed that “no weapon formed against you shall prosper”.

### **#3. Guaranteed faithfulness**

“The God of Jacob is our refuge” (v. 7)

**Question:** How is Jacob an encouragement to us all?

**Answer:** Because of how God helped Jacob.

- #1. Jacob knew the insecurity of not being the favored child.
- #2. Jacob knew what it was like to be a fugitive from his brother’s anger.
- #3. Jacob knew the pain of being cheated and tricked.
- #4. Jacob knew grief over the death of his spouse and the presumed death of his son (Joseph).

**Question:** How is “The God of Jacob” an encouragement to us all?

**Answer:** Because the same God that enabled Jacob to struggle and prevail, is our God as well!!!

#### **(Let V. 5 Sink In)**

- #1. “God is in the midst of her” (He is with you)
- #2. “You shall not be moved” (God is firm and stable)
- #3. “God shall help you” (His assistance will be yours)
- #4. “And that right early” (God’s timing is perfect)

### **III. God Provides Us With A “Security” (Vs. 8-11)**

“Be still and know that I am God, I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth” (v. 10)

**Question:** How do I experience God’s wonderful supply of grace, peace, assurance and refreshment in the journey?

**Answer:** Through the ministry of stillness!

**Fact:** The occasion of Sennacherib’s invasion saw man’s futility.

**Fact:** All that human effort could do was to “stand still”.

**Fact:** It was time to trust God for the deliverance and miracle display,

**Fact:** And, God was exalted above the heathen!

- ◆ Carnal men and women scheme with fleshly plans and ideas and efforts.
- ◆ Spiritual men and women have learned to practice Exodus 14:14:

**“The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace”**

AMEN!

Bill Kirk, Pastor

**Remember:** If we learn to wrestle with God in secret, we will not lower ourselves to wrestle with man in public.