

Wil Owens

Rejoicing in the God of Psalm 46; Psalm 47

GPBC

3.8.20

Introduction – Psalm 46 is a psalm for the faint of heart, the heart filled with fear. Psalm 46 is for the troubled soul, the frantic, frail faith that feels as if it is barely hanging on. In Psalm 46, the psalmist speaks and sounds forth the truth of who God is toward His people. He is our refuge. He is our strength. He is our very present help in trouble. He is with us. He is our fortress.

God is every single one of these things and more to His people and for His people. As we said last week – God is our fear-ending fortress! His sovereignty is unquestioned, immoveable, and unconquerable. The psalmist cry is that we look to God. He is more than enough for our fear and for our trouble. There is no safer refuge. There is no greater strength. There is no mightier fortress. A mighty fortress is our God. The psalmist penned these words in the days of the OT, and they were true then. Martin Luther penned these words in the 16th C and they were true then. And they are true now. Our circumstances change, our feelings and emotions and thoughts change, but God never changes!

But not only does the psalmist speak in Psalm 46, God speaks to us in Psalm 46. He says in v10, “Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted in the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!” Because He is that Omnipotent, Sovereign God, no matter our troubles or worries, we can be still and rest in Him.

Psalm 47 is a rejoicing in believing Psalm 46! When we believe Psalm 46 in our trouble and in our fear, we not only rest from our worry, we can rejoice in our fear-ending fortress!

- I. God, the King, is to be Praised with Fearful Celebration (vv1-4)
 - a. There is no doubt that God as King is a reality that is to be met with great celebration. That’s what v1 is all about. Read. God is King and because God is King, all peoples are to respond in jubilant, joyful praise. We have great reason to clap and shout and sing for joy. God is King.
 - i. Imagine the devastating consequences for life and this world if God were not King! If God is not King over His creation, if God is not King over your life, if God is not King

over the kingdoms of this world, if God is not King over the past, present, and future, then there is no meaning to life. If God is not King, there is no rhyme or reason for anything that happens. If God is not King, there is no final justice. If God is not King, there is no certainty of salvation. If God is not King, all is lost. If God is not King, we should mourn and there would be no such thing as hope.

- ii. But my friends, God is King, and He is wise and good and gracious. Therefore we rejoice in Him, in His Kingship, and in His kingdom.
- b. But there's a second adequate and proper reaction that simultaneously occurs alongside our celebration. That God is King is a reality that is to be met with great fear. We might say it this way, we respond to the kingship of God with fearful celebration. The two responses need not be separated or opposed to one another. We can at once greatly rejoice in and greatly revere the holy, omnipotent God of the universe. That's what v2 is all about. Read.
- i. What is this fear of God? It's not to be scared of God as if He's irrational, tyrannical, deceptive, and means to do you harm.
 - ii. The fear of God is the recognition that He is in total, complete control, and we are not. That He is all-powerful and sovereign, and we are not. That His will is the determining cause of all things, and not ours. The fear of God is the right recognition that every moment of our life and everything around us are in His hands and under His sway.
 - iii. In fact, it would be impossible to stand before the holy, omnipotent, eternal God of the universe who knows all things and controls all things and not be overcome with a deep sense of awe, respect, reverence, and fear.
 - iv. It's not a bad thing to fear God, but it is a terrifying thing to have no fear of God. We should not be concerned if we sense a fear of God, but we should be gravely concerned if we sense no fear of God.
- c. V3 explains the reason why God is to be feared. Read. It is God who orders the steps of men. It is God who gives victory. It is God who answers prayers. It is God who enacts vengeance and

judgment. It is God who is the Victor, who moves history to His glory. It is God, not us, who is the ultimate determiner of our lives. For the Bible says He knows the number of our days even before our days begin. He is to be feared.

- d. And then v4 explains the reason why God is to be celebrated. Read. It is God who chooses. It is God who loves. It is God who saves. It is God, not us, who has given us life and salvation. He has placed His eternal, perfect love upon us for no other reason than His sovereign purpose to love us. He is to be praised.

II. God, the King, is to be Praised with Continual Proclamation (vv5-7)

- a. V5. It's interesting isn't it that God ascends to His throne with a shout and with the sound of a trumpet, and when the Lord descends and returns to consummate His kingdom, He will do so with a shout and with the sound of a trumpet.
 - i. 1 Thess 4:16 – For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.
 - ii. He has been King from the beginning, He is King today, and He will be King forevermore. When the Lord returns, there will be no doubt, no question, no coup, no uprising, and no resistance to His reign.
- b. Because of the fact He is the forever King, it is only fitting and right then that He be forever adored in praises. Notice how many times in just 2 verses we are called to sing His praises! Vv6-7
- c. What are these praises that we are to sing to God? Praises are adorations that acknowledge God for who He is and for all He has done. Praises are proclamations of truth about God, to God.
- d. That's why v7 says "sing praises with a psalm." In other words, to find out who God is and what God has done, look to His word. No better place than the psalms. In fact in this very psalm we find out who God is and what God has done and therefore praise Him. V7a.
- e. The last half of v7 says sing praises with a psalm, the first half of v7 gives you the praise to sing – in a psalm!
- f. God is who He says He is. God does what He says He will do. Therefore, we go to His Word, see Him, and praise Him.

- III. God, the King, will be Praised with Universal Recognition (vv8-9)
- a. Whether prince or pauper, slave or free, male or female, rich or poor, believer or unbeliever, we will all acknowledge God as King.
 - b. You know what passage in Philippians I'm thinking about, don't you? 2:10. Every knee will bow, in heaven above and on the earth beneath, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God of the Father.
 - c. Why? How? Because He is highly exalted, v9. He is above all, He reigns over all, He sits on His holy throne. That's why before Philippians 2:10, there is 2:9 – Therefore God has highly exalted him (psalm 47:9) and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name (psalm 47:8)
 - d. You see, my friends, the psalms are about Christ because Christ is God. Christ is King.
 - e. You see, if God is only King when He's the kind of king you want him to be and He's not king when He doesn't fit your view, you've got the wrong Christ, you've got the wrong king, consequently, you've also got the wrong idea of salvation.

Conclusion – God says in Psalm 46, “I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth!” That's true of Christ because He is God. He will be exalted among the nations. He will be exalted in the earth. God says is in Psalm 46 and we sing it in Psalm 47 – God reigns over the nations. The shields of the earth belong to God. He is highly exalted! Christ reigns over the nations. The shields of the earth belong to Christ. He is highly exalted!