

God is Our Fortress (A Mighty Fortress is Our God)

Psalm 46

Introduction:

1. We live in troublesome times, everyone in the world is aware of the times we live in.
 2. Our troublesome times are not new. Not new in the sense that history provides us with other disasters, whether war or pestilence (Matthew 24, Luke 21).
 3. December 23, 1776 Thomas Paine, Series of 13 articles during the American Revolution said, "These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated."
 4. The Greatest Generation faced the Great Depression and WWII.
 5. King Hezekiah faced an Assyrian invasion (2 Kings 18-19)
 - a. Hezekiah enacted sweeping religious reforms, including a strict mandate for the sole worship of Yahweh and a prohibition on venerating other deities within the Temple of Jerusalem.
 - b. He realized that with God all things are possible, even when the people are suffering.
 - c. It is common accepted that Psalm 46 was written just before this imminent Assyrian threat.
 6. How can we overcome during troublesome times?
 7. Read Psalm 46
- I. We must not lose faith that God is present
- A. Some might question with doubt, "Where is God during this crisis?"
 - B. Psalm 46:1 - "God is our **shelter** and **strength**, always ready to help in times of trouble."
 - C. God is present, and ready to help. (Psalm 94:17ff, The God who made our ears and eyes cannot see and cannot hear? Don't be foolish. God is ever present."
 - D. Psalm 46:2-3; Therefore, we shall not fear.
- II. We must believe that God is on our side
- A. Psalm 46:4-8 - God is with His people His city, His church!

B. He fights for us (Daniel 2:21; “It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.

C. This is a time when we can be still, can be quiet and give glory to God.

1. Exodus 14:13-14; “But Moses said to the people, “Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent.”

2. When Pharaoh and his army drowned, and God’s children were safe on dry land they gave glory to God!

III. We must be convinced that God is worthy of our trust

A. In every circumstance, God is worthy of our trust. He has delivered us as a nation, as a world, and His people, in the past and He will do so again, if it be His will.

B. Thank God we are but pilgrims passing through this land of woe, Thank God we are children of faith.

C. When we say that the Lord is my shepherd, I will not fear...we are saying that in any and everything we trust in God.

Conclusion:

1. The Psalmist says, “Stop striving and know that I am God!” (Psalm 46:10)

2. Proverbs 18:10

3. Nehemiah 8:10

4. James 4:8

5. We “overwhelmingly conquer because God is ever present, by our side, and worthy of our trust.

Suggested hymns:

A mighty fortress is our God (<https://youtu.be/JhU2PB7jdZ0>)

It is well with my soul (<https://youtu.be/eCeSccazL8I>)

There’s not a friend (<https://youtu.be/IAQShixHR80>)

Leaning on the everlasting arms (<https://youtu.be/zC0ydQJ6FS8>)

Our God, He is alive (<https://youtu.be/OexbLCuRRMM>)

Sermon delivered at the Hueytown church of Christ on March 22, 2020 during the COVID-19 crisis.