*Martin Luther on Psalm 46:*

*““Come let us sing the 46th Psalm, and let them do their worst.”*

*“We sing this Psalm to the praise of God, because God is with us and powerfully and miraculously preserves and defends his church and his word, against all fanatical spirits, against the gates of hell, against the implacable hatred of the devil, and against all the assaults of the world, the flesh, and sin.”*

A Mighty Fortress is Our God (Psalm 46-: Stanzas 3 and 4:

*3 And though this world, with devils filled,  
should threaten to undo us,  
we will not fear, for God has willed  
his truth to triumph through us.  
The prince of darkness grim,  
we tremble not for him;  
his rage we can endure,  
for lo! his doom is sure;  
one little word shall fell him.*

*4 That Word above all earthly powers  
no thanks to them abideth;  
the Spirit and the gifts are ours  
through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go,  
this mortal life also;  
the body they may kill:  
God's truth abideth still;  
his kingdom is forever!*

**God is Our Refuge| Psalm 46**

*Notice 4 Key Aspects of this Psalm:*

1. It was written or composed by the Sons of Korah.
2. It is naturally broken into 3 sections or stanza by 3 Selahs.
3. Notice the apocalyptic language.
4. Notice how God is referred to 3 times as a refuge or shelter.

*The Three Stanzas:*

1. **When Creation Comes Apart (vv.1-3)**
   1. “refuge”= Hebrew term meaning, “shelter from storm or danger”
   2. Descriptive language to describe the creation unmade.
      1. Mountains moved or melted
      2. Waters roaring and foaming
      3. Mountains trembling and swelling
   3. Personification of nature
      1. Giving nature human characteristics to illustrate a point
      2. Ex. Romans 8:19, “For creation *waits* with *eager longing* for the revealing of the sons of God.”
2. W**hen New Creation Dawns (vv.4-7)**
   1. Jerusalem as Representative of the church and of New Jerusalem
      1. Its walls symbolizing protection
      2. Its temple symbolizing God’s presence
      3. Jerusalem= “City of Peace
      4. Revelation 21:2-3, “*And I saw the holly city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.”*
   2. *River or Streams alluding to River of Life in New* Jerusalem and to Jesus
      1. Jesus refers to himself as living water in John 4 and John 7
      2. Revelation 22:1-2 is the fulfillment of this.
   3. V.6 illustrates the power of God’s word to create and uncreate, to make and to unmake.
   4. V.7 a different Hebrew word for refuge that means, “Stronghold or fortress.”
3. **When God is Finally Exalted Among All the Nations of the Earth (vv.8-11)**
   1. V.8 foreshadows Revelation 19:1-5
   2. V.9 alludes to the everlasting peace God is bringing
      1. James M. Hamilton Jr.: *“The long rebellion will be over, when kings gathered armies to conquer other nations for plunder, so they could enslave many peoples. All who will not repent will be consigned to their place* of *punishment. Only those who repented, trusted, and are now glorified like Christ himself will be loose in the land. Thus there will be no further need for locks or weapons or gates.”*
   3. V.10 gives us our application of all of this, “Be still and know that I am God.”
      1. The Hebrew phrase “be still” mean to , “sink down, relax, or to let drop.”
      2. We can be still because we know he will be exalted among the nations.
   4. 1 John 3:2b, “ *when he appears, we shall be like him, because we will see him as he is*.”
4. **Concluding Applications:**
   1. We can seek God now for protection and provision
   2. We can seek God in a day of adversity and trust in His power
   3. We can know God’s blessings are flowing out to His people helping them remain calm in storms
   4. We can know the church is safe and will never be overthrown
   5. We can trust that as God’s redeemed people we will not face the desolation to come
   6. We can let down, sink in, and relax into God. Be still and know