

Psalm 46

"Praise to God for His Protection of Israel During Chaos and Assault!"

For the choir director. *A Psalm* of the sons of Korah,¹ set to Alamo². A Song.

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A1 GOD'S REASSURING PROTECTION OF ISRAEL AMIDST CHAOS IN NATURE 46:1-3

B1 The Protection and Superb Help from Elohim: {1} God is our refuge³ and strength, A very present help in trouble. **46:1**

B2 The Psychological Benefit to Israel: {2} Therefore we will not fear, **46:2a**

B3 Despite Potential Chaos⁴ in Nature 46:2b-3

C1 Devastating Earthquakes Leveling Coastal Mountains: though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea;

C2 Raging Seas Eroding Coastal Mountains: {3} Though its waters roar *and* foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. [Selah.⁵]

¹ Superscription - Sons of Korah: 11 or 12 psalms are composed by Korah. See note on the superscription of Psalm 42.

² Superscription - *Alamo*: *almah*, according to BDB, refers to a "young woman (ripe sexually, maid or newly married); *al-alamoth* to (the voice of) young women, either lit., or of soprano or falsetto of boys." K & D state, "...there is direct testimony that Levite youths were among the singers in the second temple [see The Mishna, *Erachin* 13b]; and Ps. 68:25 [Eng.] mentions the *alamoth* who struck the timbrels at a temple festival. Moreover, we must take into consideration the facts that the compass of the tenor extends even into the soprano, that the singers were of different ages down to twenty years of age, and that Oriental, and more particularly even Jewish, song is fond of falsetto singing."

³ 46:1 - refuge: "4268. machaceh, makh-as-eh'; or machceh, makh-seh'; from H2620; a shelter (lit. or fig.):--hope, (place of) refuge, shelter, trust. See the synonym stronghold in 46:7, 11." (Strong's definition, QuickVerse 4.0 Bible Reference Collection, Teacher's Edition). God is described as being Israel's (and our) refuge, strength, and help in 46:1, and as a stronghold in 46:7, 11. Praise be to God that He is our protection -- our safety net -- something the government can never be to us!

⁴ 46:2b heading - potential chaos: The first reaction is that this is hypothetical. However, the rest of the psalm seems to point to the chaos of the plagues of the Tribulation period (Rev. 6-18). Even then, Israel is urged not to fear, but to trust in God!

⁵ 3:3 - Selah: See note on Psalm 3:2

A2 **GOD'S JOY-GIVING PROTECTION OF ISRAEL AMIDST INTERNATIONAL ASSAULT 46:4-7**

B1 **The Rejuvenating Presence of God in Jerusalem 46:4-5**

- C1 The Figurative Reference to Elohim's Presence: {4} There is a river⁶ whose streams make glad the city of God, The holy dwelling places of the Most High. 46:4
- C2 The Literal Statement of Elohim's Presence and Timely Assistance: {5} God is in the midst of her, she will not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. 46:5

B2 **God's Protection of Israel from the Conspiring Nations! 46:6**

- C1 The Wars of the Nations and Political Instability: {6} The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered;
- C2 Elohim's Defeat of the Conspiring Nations by His Voice! He raised His voice, the earth melted.

B3 **Praise to Yahweh of Troops for His Protecting Presence! {7} The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our stronghold.⁷ [Selah.] 46:7**

⁶ 46:4 - river: There is no river in Jerusalem, nor has there ever been one. "The Lord's presence was like a peaceful flowing **river** (in contrast with perilous torrents, v. 3). (Cf. Isa. 8:6; 33:21, where the Lord is compared to a river encircling His city.)" (Allen P. Ross, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*) Keil and Delitzsch compare this with the river which issued forth from Eden to water the whole garden. Like Ross, they make the river figurative -- "What is intended is the river of grace" There is, however, a life-giving stream which trickles out from the Millennial Temple site and quickly becomes a river too broad to ford flowing into the Dead Sea and freshening it so that it is hospitable to fish (Ezek. 47:1-12)! In addition, the river which issues forth from the throne of God in the New Jerusalem is a literal river that gives life (Rev. 22:1-2)! So if the immediate reference speaks figuratively of God's peaceful, joy-giving presence, the ultimate fulfillment speaks of a literal river that, giving life, comes from the throne of God, Himself the author of life and all blessing.

⁷ 46:7 - stronghold: misgab (4869) - "prop. a cliff (or other lofty or inaccessible place); abstr. altitude; fig. a refuge:--defence, high fort (tower), refuge. H4869; Misgab, a place in Moab:--Misgab." (Strong's definition, QuickVerse 4.0). Used again in 46:11.

A3 THE CALL TO OBSERVE AND WORSHIP YAHWEH FOR HIS ASTONISHING INTERVENTION ON ISRAEL'S BEHALF! 46:8-11

B1 The Call to Come and Behold How Yahweh Intervenes on Earth, Halting Man's Warfare! 46:8-9

C1 The Call to Israelis to Behold: {8} Come, behold the works of the LORD, 46:8a

C2 The Enumeration of Yahweh's Works 46:8b-9

D1 The Catastrophes Especially of the Coming Tribulation: Who has wrought desolations⁸ in the earth. 46:8b

D2 His Unequivocal Enforcement of Peace in Christ's Kingdom 46:9

E1 {9} He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;

E2 He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two;

E3 He burns the chariots with fire.

B2 The Call to Acknowledge God 46:10-11

C1 God's Call to Stop and Acknowledge His Supremacy! 46:10

D1 Elohim's call to the Israel and the nations to pause and acknowledge Him! {10} "Cease *striving* and know that I am God;

D2 Elohim's promise He will assert supremacy over all nations on earth!

E1 I will be exalted among the nations,

E2 I will be exalted in the earth."

C2 The Psalmist's Grateful Acknowledgment of Yahweh's Presence and Help 46:11

D1 The presence of Yahweh of Troops! {11} The LORD of hosts is with us;

D2 The protection of Elohim of Jacob: The God of Jacob is our stronghold.⁹ [Selah.]

⁸ 46:8 - desolations: that which causes horror or astonishment. God, in judgment, brings "natural" catastrophes upon earth. The nearby context includes the stoppage of war. Could the ultimate fulfillment reference the terrible catastrophes of the Tribulation period (Rev. 6-18), following which Jesus descends in judgment and, judging the world, brings in a Millennium of Peace? Very likely, that is the case.

⁹ 46:11 - stronghold: See note on 46:7

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 46

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