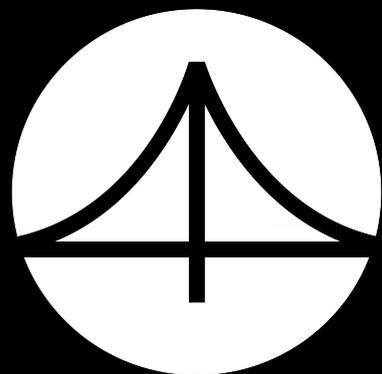


Psalm: Trust in Chaos

Psalm 46



An identity rooted in
God gives peace in
chaos.

False Foundations

- Psalm 46 shows chaos overwhelming stability

“While mountains are images of security and permanence, the waters are forces of chaos. Thus, to envision the mountains being overwhelmed by the waters is a metaphor that points to the ultimate nightmare.”

– Tremper Longman

False Foundations

- Psalm 46 shows chaos overwhelming stability
- Anything other than God that we're tempted to place our hope in cannot sustain us
- The world of people and politics can't sustain our hopes
- If we try to build our identity on anything other than God, we'll face an identity crisis when those things fail

“There are some refuges where there is no strength, where when anyone runs to them, he is weakened more than strengthened. You run, for example, to someone greater in the world, so you can make yourself a powerful friend; this seems like a refuge to you. Yet this world’s uncertainties are so great, and everyday powerful people face more intense trials and are brought down from their positions, that once you come to this kind of refuge, being in the refuge makes you start to fear more than ever.”

– *Augustine*

_____ is my refuge
and strength.

How do you fill in the
blank?

God's Response

- God is present in trouble (v. 1)
- God brings order to chaos (v. 4)
- God is in our midst when the nations rage (v. 5)
- God gives us stability in chaos (v. 5)
- God makes wars cease (v. 9)
- God brings peace through destruction (v. 8-9)

“Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great power that the Lord used against the Egyptians, so the people feared the Lord, and they believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.”

– Exodus 14:30-31

God's Response

- God is a refuge we can trust in the midst of the chaos of life because He is a God who fights for us and rescues us from that chaos
- God brings peace not only in earthly wars, but also in the war between us and Him

Our Response

- “Be still and know that I am God” (v. 10)
- 2 Levels of anxiety in chaos
 1. Physical - Will I and the people I love be safe?
 2. Identity - What does it look like for me to be a worthwhile person in the midst of this?
- God commands us not to be ruled by the chaos
- God sets us free from both levels of anxiety

Our Response

- The command to be still is not a call to apathy or passivity
- God calls us to fight passionately for justice, but our fighting must be distinct in 2 ways
 1. Our greatest weapon is love
 2. We fight from our identity, not for it

**The LORD of hosts is
with us; the God of
Jacob is our fortress.**

Psalms 46:11