

Psalm 46**10-10-99*****“God...a Ready Refuge!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Observations:
 - 1.1.1. **Written by:** the sons of Korah.
 - 1.1.2. **Alamoth?** – Prob. A musical term.
 - 1.1.2.1. (Strong) the soprano or female voice, or perhaps falsetto.
 - 1.1.3. **Note:** “Refuge” in beginning, middle, & end. – 3 stanzas.
 - 1.1.3.1. Note Selah/pause.
 - 1.1.3.2. Also we see: The Individual(1-3); The City(4-7); The Nation(8-11).
 - 1.1.4. **Theme:** the Security of Gods people.

2. HE IS OUR REFUGE! (1-3)

- 2.1. What assurance, He’ll take care of all our problems & fears.
 - 2.1.1. He’s our **refuge**...He’ll **Hide** us.
 - 2.1.1.1. Lit. “A place to go quietly for protection.” (Phillips)
 - 2.1.2. He’s our **strength**...He’ll **Help** us.
 - 2.1.2.1. These 2 go together like bacon & eggs.
- 2.2. There are times in our lives where we need a hiding place/a refuge.
 - 2.2.1. It is ok to hide – we jus can’t stay hidden.
 - 2.2.2. **Example:** In a battle scene, it is ok to dig a foxhole for cover, but you shouldn’t just bury yourself out of fear.
 - 2.2.3. **Example:** Storm out at sea. You can run down below to warm up your hands, drink some coffee, but you must get back up on deck to care for the ship.
 - 2.2.4. The key isn’t **escapism** but **rejuvenation**.
- 2.3. “trouble” = “in tight places”.
 - 2.3.1. **Q:** Are you in a tight place today? – Run to Jesus, not to escape, but to receive strength to get back to face your problem or fear.
- 2.4. Result? - **Therefore we will not fear!**

- 2.5. Our Refuge is Personal(1a) – “God is our refuge...”
- 2.6. Our Refuge is Powerful(1b) – “God is our...strength”
- 2.7. Our Refuge is Permanent(2,3) –
 - 2.7.1. Amidst all the “change” that might befall us...No Fear!
- 2.8. **Interesting:** The pagans make their gods; their gods do not make them. They carry their gods; their gods do not carry them. They protect their gods; their gods do not protect them. They sacrifice to their gods; their gods do not sacrifice to them.
 - 2.8.1. **On the other hand our God...**made us, carries us, & sacrificed Himself for us!

3. **HE IS OUR RIVER! (4-7)**

- 3.1. Jerusalem lacked a river but God was willing to become all that a river could be & more.
 - 3.1.1. Your deficiencies give more room for Gods All-Sufficiency!
- 3.2. He also is our River, so we need not faint.
 - 3.2.1. Water is very critical there in the Holy land.
 - 3.2.2. Jerusalem is one of the ancient cities **not** founded on a river.
 - 3.2.2.1. It wasn't until **Hezekiah** dug his famous tunnel that Jerusalem had a water source within the walls. {The spring of Gihon, in the Kidron valley, Hez. Diverted through a 1777' long conduit, hewn out of solid rock, into a reservoir inside the city walls.}
 - 3.2.3. Jerusalem is not near a river, it has a River!
- 3.3. (5b) Your sorrow is limited to a single night!
 - 3.3.1. “God shall help her, just at the **break of dawn.**”
 - 3.3.2. **Lam. 3:22,23** “Through the Lord's **mercies** we are not consumed, Because His **compassions** fail not. They are **new every morning**; Great is Your faithfulness.”
- 3.4. (7) He is the Lord of the armies. – Emmanuel...God w/us!

4. **HE IS OUR GOD! (8-11)**

- 4.1. (10) “**be still**” = take your hands off. (www)
 - 4.1.1. So often we want to manipulate & control.
 - 4.1.2. To remain still seems to go against human nature.
 - 4.1.3. “Faith is living w/o scheming.”
 - 4.1.4. “**Be still, O troubled heart! The God of the nations is your Father!**”¹
 - 4.1.5. 1st trust in His **person**(10a); then trust in His **plan**(10b)!
 - 4.1.6. We must learn to say an emphatic “No” to some of the demands made upon us.
 - 4.1.7. **Q:** Do you have any time to “**be still**” in the presence of God?
 - 4.1.7.1. Ok...how much this last week?
 - 4.1.7.2. Are you the type He has to “force” to be still?
- 4.2. This was Martin Luther’s favorite Psalm.
 - 4.2.1. From it penned “A Mighty Fortress is our God”.
 - 4.2.1.1. **Quote** it.
 - 4.2.1.2. One of the important benefits of the Reformation Movement was the rediscovery of congregational singing.
 - 4.2.2. During the sitting of the Diet of Augsburg he sang it every day. Playing his lute standing at the window & looking up to heaven.
 - 4.2.3. This hymn became the battle cry of the people, a great source of strength & inspiration even for those who were martyred for their convictions.
 - 4.2.4. The 1st line of this popular hymn is inscribed on his tomb & may still be read today in Wittenberg.
 - 4.2.5. It was also an inspiration for Horatio Spafford’s, “It is well with my Soul”.

¹ F.B.Meyer