

# "BE STILL BEFORE HIM"

POLITICS, PROVIDENCE, AND PSALMS • Psalm 46:1-11  
Dr. Matthew Jones, Pastor, Del Rey Church

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A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (46:1-3)

B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (46:4-7)

C. The \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_ (46:8-11)

④ \_\_\_\_\_ (46:1, 7, 11)

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# COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

## Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. Psalm 46:1 speaks of God as "our refuge and strength," and then goes on to speak of catastrophic natural events. How does God's presence change our response to fear or overwhelming circumstances? From a biblical perspective, how does God's sovereignty over all things (including natural disasters) influence the way we approach suffering and hardship?
2. In Psalm 46:4-5, the psalmist speaks of "a river whose streams make glad the city of God." What does this river symbolize and why is it associated with joy and gladness in the context of God's presence in the city? Further, how do the New Testament teachings about the presence of the Holy Spirit in believers and the Church relate to this imagery of God's sustaining "river" in verse 4? That said, get out your Bibles and look up the following verses and consider how they relate to the Spirit and this river or water imagery: John 7:37-39, John 4:10-14, Isaiah 44:3, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Revelation 22:1-2, and Isaiah 55:1.
3. What does Psalm 46 teach us about God's power over the nations and kingdoms of the earth? How should this influence our view of current political or social upheaval? What is the significance of God being "with us" (v.7) in light of His absolute power over the world? How can we, as followers of Christ, live out our calling to trust in God's sovereignty in the midst of societal chaos or global crises?
4. In the sermon we considered how people misunderstand Psalm 46:10 ("Be still, and know that I am God"). Discuss this misunderstanding and the importance of the proper meaning of the verse in context.
5. Psalm 46 ends with a repeated affirmation: "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress" (v. 7, 11). How does the repetition of this promise (God's presence and protection) encourage us in our faith? Why is it important for us to continually remind ourselves of God's faithfulness and presence? Beyond us, think of God's covenant promises in the Bible and discuss how knowing God's covenantal faithfulness shapes our understanding of His redemptive plan unfolding in Abraham's children Israel, the historical Jesus, and Christ's church.
6. How does the doctrine of God's sovereign providence help us understand the role of suffering in the life of a believer? How does Psalm 46 encourage us in our understanding of God's purposes in trials? How can we reconcile the apparent chaos in the world with the truth that God is our refuge and strength in every trouble?