

## OUR UNSHAKEABLE GOD

**Text: Psalm 46:1-11**

**Key Word:** Hope/trust

**Key Thought:** Do We Place Our Hope and Trust in God?

This Psalm became the inspiration for what was called,

“The greatest hymn of the greatest man in the greatest period in German history.”

James Moffatt  
Handbook of Church Hymnary

It became the unrivaled hymn of national days and church anniversaries. It was also sung during the times of world crisis. Its writer, Martin Luther (1483 – 1546) was known as “**The Apostle of the Reformation.**” The first hymn book published in 1524, contained only eight hymns; four of which were by Luther himself; the best known being “*Ein Feste Burg.*” Luther began writing hymns after two youth of Brussels were burned at the state in 1523 for the crime of professing their reformed faith. In honour of these youth, Luther wrote his first hymn. This hymn, “A Mighty Fortress” is based upon Psalm 46 and is a spiritual tonic for the discouraged and distressed.

John Wesley wrote in Hyde Park on the occasion of the earthquake that had been felt in London, March 8, 1750 A.D. and proclaimed the words of this text as well. Our Mighty God is written all over this Psalm. He is . . .

**I. God in the Tumult (Psalm 46:1–3)**

**II. God in the City (Psalm 46:4–7)**

**III. God in the Earth (Psalm 46:8–11)**

**I. God in the Tumult (Psalm 46:1–3)**

It’s unsettling to know that 20<sup>th</sup> century introduced the only time in our history that we’ve been capable of accomplishing a worldwide annihilation of mankind. It is frightening to realize that we are now capable of completely destroying our world in a matter of minutes. Continuous uprising’s show us that our world is severely lacking peace. Who can we turn to at this time?

It is believed that the Psalmist initially wrote these words during a time of great distress. II Kings 18 records the account of the Assyrian army led by Sennacherib as they threatened the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The field commander sent a message to King Hezekiah.

## I. God in the Tumult (Psalm 46:1–3) (Contd.)

*“You say you have strategy and military strength – but you speak only empty words. On whom are you depending that you rebel against me?”*

*II Kings 18:20*

The world cannot understand how we can live at peace during a time of trouble simply by putting our trust in God. They do not comprehend that He is God in the Tumult!

### The President’s Armored Car

\*\*\* The president of the United States rides in a \$1,500,000.00 automobile designed to withstand small-scale military attacks. President Reagan had them changed from Lincoln limousine to a longer version of XT6 Cadillacs. The chassis is that of a Chevrolet Kodiak truck. The windows are 3 inches thick and the body armour is 8 inches thick. It weighs 20,000 pounds. It is called “The Beast.” It is bullet proof, blast resistant and able to withstand a biochemical attack. It has a coded communication and a night vision system.

The seal, featuring an eagle holding an olive branch and 13 arrows in its talons below a banner reading "E Pluribus Unum" ("Out of many, one"), appears on both the interior and exterior of the passenger door.

The fridge is stocked with the president blood. Within each tire is a hard steel which will allow the car to be driven up to 50 miles an hour with all four tires flat. \*\*\*

When you consider the possibility of assaults from our enemy, it is foolishness to place our trust in anything and especially anyone but God.

Palestine was frequently subjected to earthquakes. Yet the city of Jerusalem and Mount Moriah (which became the resting place for Solomon’s temple) was totally free from any shaking. It became a witness of the stability that God gives in times of great upheavals. Hezekiah dwelt in the City of David. The most important piece of furniture in the temple was the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat that proclaimed the presence of God. God was close to King Hezekiah while he was surrounded by the heathen army of Assyria. It didn’t matter that the Assyrians boasted an army of 185,000 fully equipped, specially trained men. God’s angel destroyed the entire army in one night.

## I. God in the Tumult (Psalm 46:1–3) (Contd.)

This Psalm has become a powerful word picture placed before us by the Psalmist. Both the earth and mountains appear to be immutable and impregnable. They seem to be able to withstand any major assault. In contrast to these stalwart forces is placed the picture of the sea which is usually restless and menacing. No matter where we are in life or where we think we are, we need to put our trust in our ever-present God who is our refuge, our strength and our help in the troubling days we face.

## II. God in the City (Psalm 46:4–7)

Recent statistics show us that city dwellers are increasing while rural populations are drastically dwindling. With all these changes there have come unique and trying difficulties. It has caused no end of trouble for the municipal government leaders. There are increasing needs for law-enforcement, social services, recreational facilities, streets and parks, water supplies, garbage collection, schooling, shopping facilities . . . and the list goes on.

It seems like the problems continue to escalate without any breakthroughs. What is the answer? **There is only one answer and that is that we must invite the life-giving river of God into our cities.** When God appears, the menacing seas are changed into tributaries of life-giving rivers. He will appear not only as a river but also as One who offers many streams that flow into dry lands to bring life. There has never been a natural river in Jerusalem.

The prophet Jeremiah spoke some strong words to his people because they rejected God in their cities.

*“For my people have committed two sins – **they have forsaken me the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.**”*

*Jeremiah 2:13*

God is crying out to the cities to allow Him to bring life.

*“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”*

*John 7:38*

To the woman at the well Jesus declared,

*“but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become, in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”*

*John 4:14*

Jesus wants to be in our city as a life giving water and as a shelter during difficult times.

## II. God in the City (Psalm 46:4–7) (Contd.)

### Not Knowing Bomb/Fallout Shelters

\*\*\* Up to March of 1977, there were 232,574 fallout shelters ready for use in case of a nuclear emergency in United States. All totaled they were able to provide protection for 230 million people. Few of them have been kept up to date. Many have become laundry facilities. These facilities consisted of downtown buildings, mines, caves and tunnels. Nearly all were stocked with food, water, medical equipment, sanitation kits and devices to measure the level of radio activity inside and out. But that is not the case anymore.

But if sirens signal Americans to head for the bomb or fallout shelter, most would not know where to turn. Results of a nation wide Gallup poll surveyed responded to the question, “*Do you happen to know where the nearest public bomb shelter is?*” The survey indicated:

YES	.....	26%	
NO	.....	74%	***

Don't even think of getting to one (if they existed anywhere) in the 10 minute safe time. **So how many Canadians are aware of the shelter (vs. 7) that God provides for them?** The Psalmist calls it the Holy Place where the Most High dwells. **There is safety in God's holiness.** **There is danger in unrighteousness.** When God is with us, we will not fall. He will help us at the break of day (vs. 5); at the end of nightfall; at the most dangerous time of the day. The only solution to our cities is for them to be filled with His presence which places us in a dangerous position.

### Filling Is The Answer

\*\*\* The apostle Paul tells us to live victorious and to avoid excesses of the flesh. D. L. Moody once illustrated this truth as follows: “*Tell me*” he said to his audience, “*how can I get the air out of this glass?*” One man said, “*suck it out with a pump.*” Moody replied, “*That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass.*” After many impossible suggestions, Moody smiled, picked up a picture of water, and filled the glass.

“*There,*” he said, “*all of the air is now removed.*” He then went on to show that victory in the Christian life is not by “*sucking out sin here and there,*” but rather by being filled with the Holy Spirit. \*\*\*

The only way to remove the vacuum we've created in our cities is to once again allow God to fill them. We will then, and only then, be considered as a fortress before our enemies.

### III. God in the Earth (Psalm 46: 8–11)

When you read the words “*come and see*” or “*behold*” the Scriptures are usually referring to being able to see with **our inward eye**. We are therefore, encouraged to see things as God sees them.

We must first witness the destruction that God knows will happen – “*the desolations he has brought on the earth.*” (vs. 8b).

1. **Desolation by wars** – fields with blood and carcasses
2. **Desolation by famines** – cannibalism becoming the only means to survive
3. **Desolation by the angel of the LORD** - 185,000 died in one night
4. **Desolation by floods** – rinsing the earth of its uncleanness
5. **Desolation by earthquakes** – swallowing whole cities and populations
6. **Desolation by wild beasts** – as in the Ashur (Assyrian Capital) colonies
7. **Desolation by obnoxious creatures** – as in Egypt
8. **Desolation brought by evil men** – massacres; ethnic cleansing

Who on earth is able to change all of this? The New Agers used to tell us to look to Lord Maitrea because they said he is able to bring about the worldwide deliverance. They were wrong! His following quickly dwindled in our generation. There is only One who can change the condition of this earth. He is called the **Prince of Peace!** He alone can cause every war to cease and all weaponry to be annihilated. Only God can remove the provisions of war from mankind.

This Jesus stepped onto the deck of a boat that was being tossed to and fro and commanded the winds and waves to “*be still.*” He is soon to take His position once again as the only One who can bring peace. Some people believe it will never happen. But the Bible says it will happen.

As the Psalmist came to the end of his song the Holy Spirit took over the quill he was writing with to say,

*“ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

*Psalm 46:10*

The word “*still*” is a translation of the Hebrew word “*rapa*”, meaning “*to slacken, let down, or cease.*” In some instances, the word carries the idea of “*to drop, be weak, or faint.*” It connotes two people fighting until someone separates them and makes them drop their weapons. It is only after human fighting has stopped that the warriors can acknowledge their trust in God. It is a wake up call to refocus our faith and hope in the LORD who is above all the earth and its inhabitants.

The word “*know*” in this instance means “*to properly ascertain (or distinguish) by seeing*” and “*acknowledge, be aware.*”

**So let me conclude this message by asking a simple and yet vital question. Do you know that God is with you today?**

He is and always will be with us in spite of the shaking going on throughout our world. If our cell phones sent out an emergency notice that a nuclear bomb is headed in our direction and we have 10 minutes before it lands - WHAT WOULD YOU DO? You understand this building won't save any of us. Even if we had a fallout shelter, how we survive with the aftereffects on everything around us.?

As a born again Christian (not because I serve as a pastor) I do fear what the future of the world is about to unfold before us because we have turned away from God as a nation along with every other nation of the world. Are there even 7% Christian who abide by God's Holy Word living in Canada? God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and there were only 4 people (Lot, his wife and two daughters) that escaped the destruction of the cities. Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt because she disobeyed the clear warning that the angel of the LORD gave to them. Lot and two daughters were able to reach Zoar (Heb - “small”) before the burning sulfur consumed the twin cities.

I'm not suggesting that anyone choose to follow God to escape the upcoming wrath of God. Come to Him out of love not out of fear.

**I. God in the Tumult (Psalm 46:1–3)**

**II. God in the City (Psalm 46:4–7)**

**III. God in the Earth (Psalm 46:8–11)**

C:\WPWin(21)\Sermons.24\Hope\Psalms46\_1.11.wpd

Date: April 21/24

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Faithful One - C, E

**OUR UNSHAKEABLE GOD**  
**Text: Psalm 46:1-11**

**Key Words:** Hope/trust

**Key Thought:** Do We Place Our Hope and Trust in God?

This Psalm became the inspiration for what was called,

“The greatest hymn of the greatest man in the  
greatest period in German history.”

James Moffatt  
Handbook of Church Hymnary

Our Mighty God is written all over this Psalm. He is . . .

**I. God in the Tumult (Psalm 46:1–3) - *II Kings 18:20***

**II. God in the City (Psalm 46:4–7) - *Jeremiah 2:13; John 7:38; John 4:14***

**III. God in the Earth (Psalm 46:8–11) - *Psalm 46:10***

Do you know that God is with you today? He is and always will be with us in spite of . . .

1. **Desolation by wars** – fields with blood and carcasses
2. **Desolation by famines** – cannibalism becoming the only means to survive
3. **Desolation by the angel of the LORD** - 185,000 died in one night
4. **Desolation by floods** – rinsing the earth of its uncleanness
5. **Desolation by earthquakes** – swallowing whole cities and populations
6. **Desolation by wild beasts** – as in the Ashur (Assyrian Capital) colonies
7. **Desolation by obnoxious creatures** – as in Egypt
8. **Desolation brought by evil men** – massacres; ethnic cleansing