



**Studies in Psalms** by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 46

11/19/12

Vs. 1-5 emphasize God as the center of His people's life;  
Vs. 6-11 reveal that God affects the life of nations.

In the text, there is little, if anything, to attach this to a specific historical event, thus this expresses a general reassurance for God's people.

Martin Luther wrote his hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" because of **Psalm 46:1**.

**Verses 2-3** show God's people should not fear political turmoil described by earthly terms. **Verse 2** includes a figure of speech that illustrates overcoming huge obstacles which was also used by Jesus (Matthew 21:21; Mark 11:23) to encourage His Apostles to use the miraculous power they were given.

**Verses 4-5** point to absolute security found in "the city of God," "holy of the tabernacle of the Most High," because God dwells there and will help in the nick of time. The church of Christ, today, is the temple of God where God is among His people (2 Corinthians 6:16). Jesus Christ is High Priest of the "true tabernacle" (Hebrews 8:1-2), who entered the "Most Holy Place" in Heaven by His own blood (Hebrews 9:11-12). Since God is in it, "we will not fear" (Revelation 2:10). The "river" for the city (church) identifies with the description of the church of Christ given in Revelation 21:10-22:5, and shows continuous nurture for Christians in the church (Revelation 21:1-6). Those outside the church of Christ are not promised this water!

**Verses 6-7** mention that God's voice overpowers the raging nations. **Verses 8-9** point to "the works of the LORD" that bring peace about: God brought "desolations" to empires; "He makes wars to cease" (NOT "peace talks," "treaties," "peace accords," *ad nauseum*); God "breaks the bow," "cuts the spear," "burns the chariot," in other words, causes disarmament! **Verse 10** uses the same words Moses used at the Red Sea (Exodus 14:13), which simply exhorts people to take a deep breath and let God do His work. God will be "exalted" among the nations, when anyone notices that what is done was not done by them! **Verse 11** is a statement of that exaltation.

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