



“Know that I AM God” (Psalm 46)(6.4.23)

Psalm 46 Amplified Bible

To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah, set to soprano voices. A Song.

46 God is our refuge and strength [mighty and impenetrable],

A very present *and* well-proved help in trouble.

2

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change

And though the mountains be shaken *and* slip into the heart of the seas,

3

Though its waters roar and foam,

Though the mountains tremble at its roaring. *Selah.*

4

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

The holy dwelling places of the Most High.

5

God is in the midst of her [His city], she will not be moved;

God will help her when the morning dawns.

6

The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered *and* were moved;

He raised His voice, the earth melted.

7

The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold [our refuge, our high tower]. *Selah.*

8

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who has brought desolations *and* wonders on the earth.

9

He makes wars to cease to the end of the earth;
He breaks the bow into pieces and snaps the spear in two;
He burns the chariots with fire.

10

“Be still and know (recognize, understand) that I am God.

I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth.”

11

The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our stronghold [our refuge, our high tower]. *Selah.*

The word of God for the people of God.

LET US PRAY.



Title: **"Know that I AM God"**

INTRODUCTION:

Charles Spurgeon used the first three verses of this psalm for a February 27th devotional: "If you are enabled to rise above fear in times of alarm, then those who

see you will say, 'This is a man of God and this is God's work upon his soul.'

I knew a youth near forty years ago, who was staying with relations when a thunderstorm of unusual violence came on at nightfall. A stack was struck by lightning and set on fire within sight of the door. The grown-up people in the house, both men and women, were utterly overcome with fright. The strong men seemed even more afraid than the women. All the inmates of the house sat huddled together. Only this youth was quietly happy.

There was a little child upstairs in bed and the mother was anxious about it, but even her love could not give her courage enough to pass the staircase windows to bring that child down. The babe cried and this youth, whom I knew well and who was newly converted, went upstairs alone, took the child and, without hurry or alarm, brought it down to its mother. He needed no candle, for the lightning was so continuous that he could see his way well.

He felt that the Lord was wonderfully near that night and so no fear was possible to his heart. He sat down and read a psalm aloud to his trembling relatives, who looked

on the lad with loving wonder. That night he was master of the situation and those in the house believed that there was something in the religion which he had so lately professed.

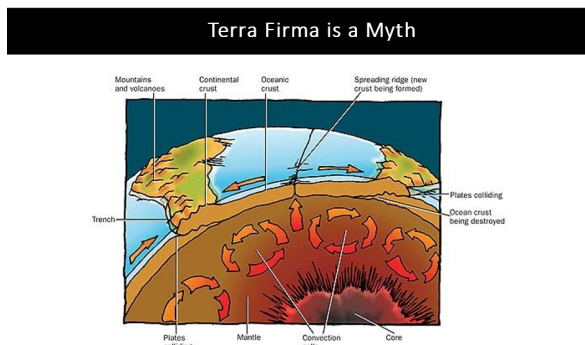
I believe that, if all of us can by God's grace get such a sense of God's nearness to us in times of danger and trouble that we remain calm, we shall bring much honour to the cause of God and the name of Jesus.

BODY:

The Preacher's Commentary opens this exploration of Psalm 46 with this provocative thought and question:

"We speak naïvely of terra firma. It isn't. Geologists

have discovered that the continents are actually afloat, continuing to be built and changed by moving plates. Volcanoes are earth's heat vents lying near the plate perimeters, which are also earthquake prone. What we have then is a dynamic, living, changing planet set in an exploding, expanding universe. Creation as pictured by deists—like a clock that has been wound up and then left to tick along on its own—just doesn't work. In fact, creation is a great natural drama that seethes with the unexpected, but has a meaningful purpose that will reach culmination. Psalm 46 describes it exactly in this way (see vv. 2–3). But if earth is not our fixed position, then **where can we be anchored?"**





There are 50-70 volcanic eruptions every year.

The earth's core is the same temperature as the surface of the sun.



Obviously, these are not abstract concepts. Emmaus Church sent a contribution to the United Methodist Committee on Relief to assist in recovery efforts in the earthquake disaster in Turkey and Syria a few months ago.

The NY Times reported: As of Feb. 24, the death toll in Syria and Turkey had surpassed 49,000. In Turkey, the authorities said that more than 43,000 people had died; in Syria, the death toll crossed 5,500, according to figures from the United Nations.

Thousands of buildings were [destroyed or rendered unstable](#), leaving hundreds of thousands of people without shelter in rain, snow and temperatures that often dip below freezing. Millions are in need of aid, according to relief agencies; in Syria alone, the United Nations said that [as many as 5.3 million](#) might have lost their homes.

The quake zone in Turkey stretches across more than 200 miles, from the Mediterranean in the south across mountains and to the east-central highlands and into northwestern Syria. Snow-covered mountain passes, buckled highways and buildings that collapsed over roads have all delayed the arrival of rescue teams and aid.

Over and over again, the Bible tells us how all of creation is under God's control. Not only does the LORD have the power, it is a power that He exercises routinely. The Almighty can bless with gentle rain and fruitful sunshine or an army of locusts may come and devour all vegetation.

With all of our scientific advancement, we like to think we are in control. Hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, and tornadoes laugh at our accomplishments. Our knowledge of biology and chemistry fills libraries and computer databases. And yet, new viruses and variants can change the world.

The Beginning

Genesis 1:1-2 (NIV84)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Some deny God's existence. Some deny a Creator, but how does the LORD begin His revelation of Himself? In the beginning – the book of Genesis.



Here is a perfect illustration of the difference between God and humankind. We have been to the moon, which is the closest heavenly object to earth. How many moons are there in the universe? We don't have a clue. The universe is

continually expanding. We cannot even conceive into what it is expanding. Our minds numb as we try to fathom how big it is. WWW.space.com uses estimates like 92 billion light years. That's 92 billion X 6 trillion miles. You do the math.



Why do I bring up the issue of fear again? Verse 2, "Therefore we will not fear." No matter what, we will not fear. I bring it up because the LORD brings it up.

Repeatedly, I pray for you that we would be strong and courageous. Repeatedly, I encourage and exhort you not to fear. Why? Because our God tells us not to fear repeatedly. Why? Because there is a lot to be afraid about. So then, shouldn't we be fearful? No, because God is with us. No, because God is sovereign. No, because God is in control.



This life is short. This life is temporary. Our citizenship is in heaven. We will live in the midst of our God. We cannot read Psalm 46:4-5 without the New Jerusalem coming to mind. The title over Revelation 22 in the NIV is The River of Live. Revelation

22:1-2 (NIV84) Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.



There is no doubt that the Nations need healing!

This Psalm makes it crystal clear that our Sovereign Almighty Lord is in control of human history too. Weapons of war and conflict will become impotent.

No longer will war and killing be seen as a solution.



You and I tend to see this through the human lens. We hear this as what God can and will do for us. While true, that is not the fundamental issue and truth. It is only secondarily about us. It is primarily about the Lord of Hosts, the Almighty

God. The Most High God. He tells us, "I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth."

What are we doing to exalt God? As children of God and as the Church, we are called to lift high the banner of the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

Knowing God redefines existence. Knowing God's promises creates a firm foundation for living. No matter our circumstances, the fact that the Lord of hosts is with us provides a stronghold that cannot be overcome.

Human wisdom cannot take the place of knowing the I AM – The Being – Who IS God, has always been God, and will always BE the Most High God.

An Anglican Bishop, named Charles Gore, shared this story of a mathematician whose grief journey brought her to faith.

"There comes to hand — at this moment in a recent biography — a beautiful instance of the way in which one who stood wholly outside the Christian creed, and, as far as can be judged, by little or no fault of her own, came

gradually within the bosom of the Church of Christ, and knew her Lord.

Ellen Watson was a brilliant mathematician. When at the age of twenty she was a pupil of Professor Clifford, at University College, in London, and loved with the deepest respect and affection to speak of him as "the Master," he in his turn had a high admiration of her abilities, "believing," as we are told, "that she possessed the rare faculty for doing original work in his science; indeed, he even looked forward to her becoming known some day as a discoverer or originator in mathematics."

Her position in regard to religion at that time is thus described: "The one absorbing passion of her mind was the love of positive truth, and this love was guarded by an almost severe morality of the intellect, which made her fear, above all things, every kind of illusion and self-deception. She dreaded, as an intellectual sin, the giving to a wish or a hope or a dream of the imagination the subject and influence of a conviction.

Mathematics, by its strictly logical conclusions, and natural science, by its severe experimental tests, commended themselves to her high intellectual integrity as the greatest and best of all teaching, while at the same time they best satisfied the craving for positive truth which filled her soul, so that she delighted in resting on their conclusions as on an immovable basis.

'I do not need religion,' she often said at that time; 'science thoroughly satisfies me.' For, judged only as to the satisfaction afforded to the reason, religion appeared,

by the side of positive science, as a collection of dim, uncertain facts mixed with conceptions of the imagination." The certainty of science "gave peace to her intellectual conscience; all else seemed misty — delusive."

Within five years she died at Grahamstown, South Africa, but with words very different on her lips, the words of triumphant faith and praise which make up the Church's "Gloria in excelsis," and with the Church's viaticum for her journey into the unseen world.

[Viaticum is a term for receiving the elements of Holy Communion by a dying person as part of a Last Rites ceremony. It is a Latin word meaning "provision for a journey". These words are added - "May the Lord Jesus Christ protect you and lead you to eternal life". The Eucharist is seen as the ideal spiritual food to strengthen a dying person for the journey from this world to life after death.]

[Her] biography is mainly an account of the conversion of her mind. It was a progress without a break. She lost nothing she had ever had. No part of her hold on scientific truth, her trust in scientific method, ever vanished. She did but, as she described it, gradually wake up in a larger world and found that the spiritual truths which she held by faith, though reached, it is true, by a different process, were still the "crowning knowledge of all that she had won before, perfecting and completing what was otherwise rudimentary and broken."

The premature death of her master, Clifford, and the discipline of sorrow and suffering, rudely shattered the completeness which she had at first assigned to the life in the mere visible world. The imperious exigencies of an awakened spirit forced her into the sphere of spiritual and supernatural facts.

The recognition of the Divine Fatherhood came slowly but surely upon the mind. Through Divine Fatherhood came the belief in the Divine Sonship manifested in Christ, and while she was yet far off any clear grasp of the accuracies of the Christian faith, the Christian Church presented itself to her as embodying the truth, and satisfying man's obvious need for order, for spiritual shelter, for unity.

She had none of that intellectual vanity which keeps clever people from confessing themselves wrong; none of that pride which makes us preserve our isolation. She desired to have perfect fellowship with the common Christian life. She accepted the Church in practice. She presented herself for confirmation. She sought and found in South Africa the fellowship of the saints in the Church. Authority presented itself to her, and was accepted by her just in the shape of something which embodied what her soul wanted. She recognised the truth, so hard to the natural will, that we must surrender ourselves, merge ourselves, if we are to find our true selves."

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate Holy Communion, let us remember that the Lord Jesus gave us this

sacrament so that we may Know the grace of God and experience the real presence of The God of Jacob.

Amen and amen. Let us pray.