

Finding Unshakable Security and Peace in God Amidst a Shaking World is Difficult
Cold War Era – USSR first Nuke in 1949 – Nuclear war seemed eminent...chaos and collapse

- This is how Israel felt all the time...the risk of an invading nation hung over them cloud
Now we live in a divided country...feel the tension all day every day

- Everything we now from the Bible to be True is under attack and it leaves us uneasy

There are two dials we need to turn up in times of uncertainty – Stand and Trust

We continue to stand for what is right and trust God for the outcome

Big Idea - Our God displays his power to bring us peace

Psalm...one of the most powerful pieces of poetry ever written for God's people.

- It was written as a song to be sung in the temple worship of God.
- Psalm believed written response great national crisis, perhaps Assyrian siege Jerusalem King Hezekiah, where God miraculously delivered His people. – Sung Passionately
- Three stanzas (Selah) , either starts or ends with this idea. **God is our fortress** (1, 7, 11).

God's power, and how he uses that power on behalf of his people! – How to respond

Three Truths about God – Taking this one section at a time...one poetic stanza at a time

1. **God is: Constant when the world is in chaos (1-3)**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. The theme of the psalm is laid out at the beginning: God our refuge and strength

- 'Our' - What good is a weak refuge? – Golf Storm and the Tree – Three Little Pigs
- 'Very Present' - Not just hanging around...Has closeness and reliability...He's CONSTANT
Response ²Therefore we will not fear though earth give way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of sea,

- Can you imagine that imagery? Sandias thrown into the Rio Grande...are you afraid?
- Of course, this is a metaphor, but the imagery is strong and it communicates a Truth
No matter what happens, we can have confidence, because of the proven strength of God
- Are mountains supposed to be immovable...push...Everest is there...nothing do about it
- There are things in your life that you consider immovable and crumble...panic

Finances – Career – Grades – Relationships – Health...without warning crumble...panic

Psalmist – We will not fear! Run to the fortress = Prayer / Word / Fellowship

³though its waters roar & foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

Cities that were seaports...this would be terrifying...tidal wave makes mountains tremble

Have you ever felt like life is just one tidal wave after another? Another one comes

The Cay (Book) – Let the Lord protect you from the storm...still went through it!

But there's more to our relationship with God than just our protection.

2. **God is: Sufficient when resources are scarce (4-7)**

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

- We live in the desert, understand this to an extent. Brown...Green = Rio...provides life
- Deeper: Ancient city didn't have airports – trains – interstates semi-trucks Amazon

No, for an ancient city to thrive it needed a river

- The river provided not only water, but travel, commerce, and vibrancy to the city
- So this river, and its streams, make God's city glad. They bring it to life.

What God does for us: he provides a constantly renewing source of life

If this Psalm written during Assyrian attack on Judah it makes the river more important

- If people can't get in or out, the river is the only source of life.

⁵God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

Can you imagine singing this as a terrifying nation attacks you?

Your resources are scarce...you're surrounded on all sides...but God is in your midst

God is in our midst, and God is power - Therefore, we can't be moved

Now I want you to see a comparison between the worlds power and the power of the Lord

⁶The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

- The nations rage – Kingdoms totter – God speaks and the earth melts
Even if it's the whole earth against God, earth loses – Not fights harder...speaks

⁷The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

When resources are scarce...The Lord is your portion and fortress

Have you ever felt surrounded on all sides? Let the word of the Lord be your fortress

When the world beats you down...open your bible and let the Word protect you

3. **God is: Exalted above man's ambition (8-11)**

⁸Come, behold the works of the Lord, how he has brought desolations on the earth.⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire.

- Behold: come and see what God does. And what do we behold?

○ The desolations God brings. What is that about? **2 Kings tells the story**

- Assyria is attacking Jerusalem, and military force is clearly superior to King Hezekiah's
- Hezekiah prays. God sends Isaiah the prophet, **who says this will happen...**

2 King 19:28 – "because you have raged against me, and your complacency has come into my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came"

Next morning, they saw the entire Assyrian army, 185,000 men, struck down by the Lord

- God protected those who shared His ambition! - not bloodlust...to bring peace
- God is in the business of peace, which means when he destroys those who oppose him, he also makes wars to cease and renders human weapons useless. Agenda is peace
- Not good feelings or niceness, but true peace. Only be accomplished by his power and is only made available to us by his grace...**violence and grace | WW2 – Cross**

¹⁰"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

¹¹The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

Verse 10 gives us answer: our role, is to be still, and to recognize God's power

- This command is for everyone: in context of the previous verse, he's saying two things
 - if you're preparing to fight against God, be still. Because he will be exalted over you.
 - If you're under attack from forces that oppose God, can have peace to be still

Know where the power does and does not reside

We talk about redeemed ambition here, and it matters for this reason: God will be exalted

The root of our ambition must be God's exaltation

Hezekiah longed to see the Lord exalted and he was because that's what the Lord does

- **How much easier is it to be still and know God is God when you know he'll be exalted?**
- **If you knew that the Lord would be exalted even if – Mountain – Waves – Nations**

Even in our worst day...our ambition can be the exaltation of God...and that makes us still

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble – **Do you believe it?**

Our God displays his power to bring us peace