

# STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

## *“Be Still and Know: Spiritual Strength from Sacred Spaces”*

(Psalms 46:1-11)

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. 5 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. 6 The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, and the earth melts. 7 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah 8 Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. 9 He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. 10 ‘Be still, and know 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 fortress. Selah” (Psalm 46:1-11)*

### ❖ The Context and Meaning of Psalms 46

- Be Still

The Hebrew word for “still” that’s used in Psalm 46:10 is **Raphah (רָפָה)** which means to “sink, to relax, to let go, to cease striving, or withdraw.”

II Corinthians 10:4 says,

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but mighty through God having divine power to destroy strongholds.” (II Corinthians 10:4)*

- Know that I Am God

To *"know that I am God"* means to *"be aware of"* or to *"properly ascertain through sight."*

- I Will Be Exalted

*"I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*

## ❖ **The Condition and Mess of the Present 21st Century**

- The Uncertainty of Life
  - The Coronavirus pandemic changed much of how we live our lives.
  - The political climate and the unrest in our nation;
  - The surging crime;
  - The crisis at the border;
  - The fentanyl problem that is sweeping our land;
  - The isms infiltrating our culture and
  - The gender wars that reveal a massive identity issue in the psyche of humanity are all matters that touch us all in certain ways.

- The Certainty of God's Word
  - Psalm 46 powerfully and effectively conveys a truth: We are Safe in the Care of God

No matter what happens, no matter what life brings ...

- God is our Refuge,
  - God is our Protector, and
  - God is our Safe Shelter.
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- Psalm 46 is a 'Psalm of Confidence' and consists of three elements
    - The Presence and Protection of God Amid Natural Disaster: He is Our Refuge from the Storm (46:1-3)

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. Selah"*

✓ God's Protection

Psalm 61:2-4 tells us,

*"From the end of the earth, I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, 3 for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy. 4 Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! Selah" (Psalm 61:2-4)*

✓ God's Presence

You see, not only is God an available refuge, but He's also an accessible refuge.

✓ God's Provision

Psalm 104:5 says,

*"You fixed the earth on its foundation, so it can never be shaken. 6 The deeps covered it like a garment; above the mountains stood the waters." (Psalm 104:5)*

- The Presence and Protection of God Amid National Instability: He will Overcome the Enemy (46:4-7)

✓ God's Presence in and Protection of His City

✓ Gladness through God's Presence

- The Presence and Protection of God Amid War and Chaos: He will Bring Peace (46:8-11)