

TROUBLING TIMES

Pastor Joseph Hovsepian

Psalm 46

These are tough and troubling times, tough for individuals, tough for families, tough for churches and tough for the world.

What will happen next only God knows

There are so many troubling things today that shake us all. Perhaps you have been shaken by some recent event or experience

Yes, there are tough times ahead for us all. In John 16:3 we read: *“In this world you will have trouble.”* But, Jesus said: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled.”*

Psalm 46 speaks about peace in times of trouble. This Psalm was actually written during a foreign invasion of Israel. But this Psalm is ideal for anyone who is going through a difficult time or is a target of the enemy

In fact this is a Psalm for times when your world is shaking! But let's look at what offers for **our** troubling times:

1- God's Presence (vs.1)

- It starts with God. Not some impersonal unknown being.
- This is the God who loves us, and the proof of His love is Jesus His only Son who came to save mankind.

John 3:16 - *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”*

- God wants a personal relationship with us

“God is our Refuge” our hiding place. King David said: *“The Lord is my Shepherd.”*

- We are sheltered in God when storms come.
- We are safe with Him when our world is shaking.

“God is our Strength:” God gives strength to those who are weak. Isaiah said: *“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.”* (Isaiah 40:31)

God is greater than any trouble we face and He is ready to help when we are in trouble.

2- God's Peace – (vss.2-7)

“Therefore we will not fear.”

Many go through things they never thought they **would**, and yet they go through them, even though they never thought they **could**.

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When faith comes fear disappears.

We can be peaceful in dangerous times. If we believe!

Is your faith in the One who calmed the sea?

- * *“No fear though the earth be removed.”* (vs.1)
- * *“No fear though the mountains fall into the see.”* (vs.2)
- * *“No fear though the waves roar and foam.”* (vs.3)
- * *“No fear though the earthquakes shake the mountains.”* (vs.3)

Verse 4 says: *“There is a river.”* and *“River”* here is a metaphor for the continual outpouring of the sustaining and refreshing blessings of God.

3. **God’s Promises** (vss. 8-11)

God is in Control and at work even when our world is shaking. In **Romans 8:28** we read: *“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him.”*

We must trust God and leave the future with Him, by faith. **“Believe”** is a life changing word. To believe is the exercise faith. In **Acts 16:31** we read: *“Everything is possible for Him who believes.”*

You may ask: “What should I believe?”

Well, first, **believe in God:**

- That God exists, and that He is the Creator
- That God is in Control
- That God loves the world He created, and that He sent His only Son Jesus to pay the price for our salvation
- And that Jesus arose from the dead.
- And then, put this faith into action, by trusting Christ for your salvation.
- And finally, rest your future in His hands.

This Psalm begins and ends with God.

The same is with our life on earth, it begins as a part of God’s creation and ends with God still being in control.

We therefore must begin and end each day of our earthly journey in God’s presence.

God is sufficient when our world is shaking.

And we can trust Him to bring us safely through.