

Psalm 46: God with us



Psalm 46 (45) (Mode 3. 3....12 / 4.....271)

The beautifully refined poetry of this psalm establishes it as one of the masterpieces of the psalter. It is a psalm of trust in the Lord whose presence in the city has saved it from foreign aggression. Does it celebrate the lifting of the siege and the withdrawal of the army of Sennacherib in 701BC?

God is our refuge and strength,
a helper close at hand in time of trouble.

So we will not fear,
though the earth should tremble;
though mountains collapse into the sea,
though waters roar and foam,
though the mountains shudder
before the crashing waves.

yeh^emu yehm^eru meymayw

The Lord of hosts is with us; [refrain [omitted in Hebrew text]]
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

There is a river whose streams
gladden the city of God,
home of the Holy One,
our God, the Most High.

Hezekiah's tunnel:
Spring of Gihon to
Pool of Siloam

God is in the midst of the city.
It cannot be shaken.
God will be its help
when the morning dawns.

Peoples revolt.
Kings mobilise their armies.
The earth shudders
whenever God thunders.

*The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

Come, behold the formidable things
the Lord has brought about on the earth:
everywhere God puts an end to war,
breaking the bow.

God shatters the spear,
burns the chariot in a pyre.

‘They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more’(Isaiah 2:4).

‘The yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken’(Isaiah 9:4).

An end to your fighting!
Be still and know that I am God.
I am exalted above the nations,
supreme on the earth.

*The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.*

‘Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you. You have only to keep still’(Exodus 14:13-14).