



# WELCOME TO BIBLE HOUSE OF GRACE

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

## Psalm 46

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Learn the  
Bible  
at Home

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Psalm 46.

---

### Topics.

- The day of God's judgment and the holy city of God.
- God is in the midst of a river whose streams make the city of God glad.
- The city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
- God is in the midst of his city and the glory of Christ's return.
- The nations rage, the kingdoms totter, the earth melts.
- The LORD has brought desolations on the earth. He makes wars cease.
- Be still, and know that I am God and the faith of Job and Habakkuk.
- I will be exalted among the nations and in the earth.

**FOR INFORMATION:** concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

---

### INTRODUCTION

---

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

1

---

---

### BOOK TWO (PSALM 42-72)

---

### PSALM 46:1-3

---

To the Choirmaster. Of the Sons of Korah. According to Alamoth. A Song.

#### The Day of God's Judgment and the Holy City of God.

- **Psalm 46:1-3:** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling. *Selah*

This psalm encourages hope in God's power and providence and trust in His presence during the worst moments of difficulty hardship and sorrow. The word sea comes from the Hebrew word (yam) and means to roar as breaking waves in the noisy surf of the sea. It can refer to a large body of water, the Mediterranean ocean; a large river or an artificial basin of water locally in the west (it rarely refers to the south sea).

#### Following are a few verses that speak of the sea:

- The thunder of many peoples; they thunder like the thundering of the sea! Ah, the roar of nations; they roar like the roaring of mighty waters! <sup>13</sup>The nations roar like the roaring of many waters, but he will rebuke them, and they will flee. (Isaiah 17:12-13).

The roar of the sea is a symbol of nations who invade and plunder the people of Israel and by extension the people of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- The wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt. (Isaiah 57:20).

The sea is a symbol of the wicked and those who are corrupt.

- They lay hold of bow and spear; they are cruel and have no mercy. The sound of them is like the roaring of the sea; they ride on horses, arrayed as a man for battle (Jer. 50:42).

The roaring sea is a symbol of a powerful and cruel army that has no mercy.

- Daniel declared, “I saw in my vision by night, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. <sup>3</sup>And four great beasts came up out of the sea. (Dan. 7:2-3).

The sea is a symbol of the populations of the world and the world system out of which four great nations rise from.

- I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads. (Rev. 13:1).

The sea is a symbol of the populations of the world and the world system out of which ten great nations rise that are aggressively against God, against the Lord Jesus Christ and against the faithful who belong to him.

**Based on these verses:** the sea can not only be seen as a symbol of the secular populations of the world and the entire world system and those who are wicked, but also as a symbol of nations that are aggressively against God, against Christ and against those who belong to his Kingdom. When the word roaring is added to the word sea it intensifies the aggression and hatred that the world and the nations have against all of the above. The Psalmist is saying when trouble comes upon the earth do not fear, but trust in God and make Him our refuge and strength (v1). To discover how to do this, see the notes following (v8-11) under the title: “Be still, and know that I am God,” (below).

---

## PSALM 46:4-5

---

### **God is in the midst of a River whose Streams make God’s City Glad.**

- **Psalm 46:4-5:** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns.

The word river comes from the Hebrew word (nahar) and refers to a running stream (including the sea; especially the Nile and the Euphrates, etc.). Figuratively it carries the idea of sparkling, cheerfulness, prosperity (i.e., as a flood of blessing). There may be an allusion to a particular river or stream in the area, but it is more likely the image is designed to represent a state of peace, blessing and calm security in contrast with the rough and troubled seas of the previous verses.

### **The river and streams can be seen as symbols of any of the following:**

- The covenant of grace and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- God’s promises, the Spirit of grace and its influences upon the faithful.
- God’s word, laws and ordinances that gladden the heart of every believer.
- The grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit, which flow through every part of the faithful’s life and collectively the faithful global church.

- Overflowing favour, prosperity, blessing, happiness, abundance, peace and joy.
- Abundance of all good things wherever life it flows God's everlasting love and eternal life.

Primarily rivers and streams can be seen as symbols of all thing good, prosperous, calm and peaceful in contrast to the roaring seas which symbolise all things contrary to God and opposed to His will and contrary to peace security and calm. The following verses speak of rivers and streams:

- He (who delight is in the law of the LORD) is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:3).

The streams of water are a symbol of God's blessing, prosperity and eternal life.

- They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. (Psalm 36:8).

The river is a symbol of God's abundant blessings.

- With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. (Isaiah 12:3).

Here wells of water are a symbol salvation.

- Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a shelter from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. (Isaiah 32:2).

The streams of water are a symbol of life (i.e., bringing life to spiritually dry hearts and minds especially eternal life).

- They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. (Psalm 36:8).

Here the river is a symbol of God's abundant blessings.

- In Jerusalem the LORD in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor majestic ship can pass. (Isaiah 33:21).

The streams and rivers symbolise God's protection, (i.e., like a moat is to a fortress or castle).

- I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. (Isaiah 41:18).

The streams of water are symbols of God's abundance of blessing and new life.

- On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea and continue in summer as in winter. (Zech. 14:8).

The rivers are a symbol of God's eternal Spirit.

- Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. (Rev. 22:1).

The river is a symbol of God's life flowing to all who will receive it. These verses show that the state of Jerusalem, the Holy City of God is represented by calm and gently-flowing rivers and streams and that rivers and streams of water are not only symbols of God's presence, help, Spirit and joy that bring spiritual life to the heart and mind of the faithful, but also symbols of God's protection and abundant blessing, prosperity, salvation and eternal life flowing to all who will receive it. While the wicked, the corrupt and those who are aggressively against God are represented by the roaring, raging and foaming of the sea dashing against mountains as if it would overturn them.

**The importance of a natural river:** during ancient times a river was the very making and mainstay of their towns and cities and during war the great fear of an ancient city, town or fortress was that their water supply would be cut off during a siege since this would bring about their defeat in a very short period of time whereas if they could secure the water supply the city could hold out against attacks for an indefinite period of time.

**The importance of a spiritual river:** the head of this river is the heart of God's sovereign goodwill and pleasure; the channel through which it runs is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is a river of everlasting love, grace; joy and bliss that brings life wherever its waters flow. It is not boisterous like the wave of an ocean, but a placid and calm stream that by its influences make glad the city of God and the faithful by assuring them that the Lord of Jerusalem will supply all their needs. They are clear, cool, fresh, abundant rivers of life that bring joy and eternal life to all who swim in them. They flow from God's fountain of divine love power and grace and make the hearts of God's people glad. The river of God's Spirit in the heart and mind of the faithful is like a river that runs underground, it flowed secretly until it breaks up the hard ground and appears in large streams and flows outwardly in love, mercy, grace, peace and joy toward all people and on into eternity.

**It is a spiritual river that:**

- Is unfathomable and cannot be passed over except by faith in the promised Messiah the Christ the Scriptures proclaim and God's grace.
- Has heights, depths, lengths and breadths which cannot be comprehended.
- Is pure and clear as crystal; free of all pretence, deceit and hypocrisy in the heart, and clear of all corrupt motives.
- Is living and brings life to spiritually dead sinners and revives drooping hands of the faithful.
- Raises the faithful in the first resurrection and secures them from the second death and the lake of fire.
- Gives eternal life and makes everything it touches fruitful.

**The city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High:** (v4) God's Holy Mountain Zion is the mountain God's Holy city Jerusalem is built upon. The following verses show that a time will come when God will set His Son and King on His Holy Mountain Zion His Holy Hill and make all nations his heritage and the ends of the earth his possession. Jerusalem will be beautiful and the joy amongst all nations of the earth and those who despised God's Son will bow down at his feet and greatly praise Jerusalem the City of God, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

- Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His Holy Mountain (Psalm 48:1).
- As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my Holy Hill. <sup>7</sup>I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. <sup>8</sup>Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. (Ps. 2:6-8).
- I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his Holy Hill. (Psalm 3:4).
- Beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth, Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King. (Psalm 48:2).
- Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God! His Holy Mountain. (Psalm 48:1).
- The sons of those who afflicted you shall come bending low to you, and all who despised you shall bow down at your feet; they shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 60:14).

Figuratively the city of God can be seen as the global body of Christ the faithful church surrounded with mighty walls of God's truth, love, justice, mercy and grace protected by His omnipotence and adorned with Christ's righteousness. All those who have the Spirit of God dwelling in them by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ can be seen as the spiritual Holy City of God.

**God is in the midst of her:** (v5) carries the idea that God's help is sure and near the Lord is always near to the distresses of the faithful. Since the Lord sojourns in the midst of the faithful we should always take heed not to offend or grieve him. Christ presence makes all thoughts of capturing and destroying God's Holy City Jerusalem forever absolute foolishness. The Lord's Spirit is in the faithful and in the city and therefore neither the believer or the city can be destroyed.

**The glory of Christ's return:** as soon as the first ray of light proclaims the coming day, the Lord's angel will go forth at the turning of the morning and God's right arm will be outstretched toward His people. Today the bands of evil surround the faithful church and threaten her with destruction, but threaten is all the power they have, the noise of their mocking, persecutions, false prophets and corrupt teachers will be silence in the grave. The darkest hour of the night is just before the turning of the morning; likewise, the darkest hour for our world will bring forth the dawn of a new and glorious age when the Lord appears in glory as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

---

## PSALM 46:6

---

### **The Nations Rage, the Kingdoms Totter, the Earth Melts.**

- **Psalm 46:6-7:** The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

**The heathen raged:** the nations are pictured as being in a furious uproar gathering against the Holy City of the Lord like wolves ravenous for their prey foaming and roaring like a tempestuous sea.

**The nations were moved:** meaning their authority and power was taken and a great confusion seized the populations with fear and terror. The rulers and kings are pictured as abusing their authority and the dominion given to them by urging the armies of the nations to go to war against the Holy City of God. As they move toward Jerusalem rulers fall and territories are conquered until God who rules the angels, the stars, the elements, and all the hosts of heaven even the heaven of heavens utters His voice and they are subjected to His awesome and mighty power. Woe to those who fight against God the Most High, they shall fly like smoke before the wind when He gives the word to scatter them. Peace follows the rage and calms the hearts capable of repentance and the roar of the seas are silenced. As God's wrath melted the earth His voice of mercy and grace will melt the hearts of those who refused to be enticed to join the nation's warfare against the Holy City, against Christ and against his people in love to Jesus, and end the persecutions, wars and rebellion of mankind.

**The LORD of hosts is with us:** this is the reason for Jerusalem's security, and for the security of every faithful believer and the reason for the security of the global body of Christ and why God's enemies will never prevail or triumph over those who belong to His Kingdom.

---

## PSALM 46:8-11

---

### **The LORD has Brought Desolations, He makes Wars Cease.**

- **Psalm 46:8-11:** Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters

the spear; he burns the chariots with fire. <sup>10</sup>"Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. *Selah*

The Psalmist in these verses reminds us that the invisible, immortal Almighty God the creator of all things and source of all life not only has the power to bring to an end all weapons of war and destruction and the oppression of the helpless and poverty of the poor, but also bring about a glorious new age free of wars, oppression, hardships, troubles grief and sorrow.

**Be still, and know that I am God:** (v10) means rest, do not fret or fear even though the mountains are trembling, the seas are roaring and the earth is falling apart trust in the Lord and make him our refuge until he returns to gather us to himself in glory. Some might ask "how?" The answer to this is to have the same faith as Job and Habakkuk had. Following are four verses selected from Job chapter six to chapter thirty that highlight the truth that Job not only saw God as the one who brought his afflictions, suffering, sorrow and loss upon him, and that he remained faithful to God, but also show that not one of them dented or shattered his faith even though he felt God was working against him.

1. The arrows and terrors of the Almighty are set against me (Job 6:4).
1. He breaks me, he runs upon me like a giant (Job 16:14).
2. He has kindled his wrath against me and counts me as his enemy (Job 19:11).
3. You have become cruel to me and opposed yourself against me (Job 30:21).

These verses (there are many more) shine a spotlight on the truth that Job credited God with being the one who brought about his affliction, suffering and loss. Here is the great faith of Job even knowing that God had brought all his great suffering upon him he still makes the two follow fantastic statements:

- Though he slays me, yet will I trust in him (Job 13:15).
- I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God (Job 19:25-26).

Jobs words are gloriously stunning and prophetic, "My Redeemer lives," this statement show that Job understood the following two things:

1. When he did die his body would decay in the grave until a redeemer came at the end of the worldly age we live in and he would be resurrected to eternal life.
2. He would not be raised from the grave as a spirit, but as a complete person with a body of immortal flesh and that he will see God.

**The great faith of the prophet Habakkuk:** in prayer Habakkuk says, "Even though he feels weak and feeble because of the enemies who are coming to invade his land, he will quietly wait for the day of trouble." He then ends his prayer with the following great words of faith.

- Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, <sup>18</sup>yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. <sup>19</sup>GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places. (Hab. 3:17-19).

We make the Lord our fortress and refuge, by making him our greatest love, our best thought and the passion of our heart and mind and rest in the knowledge if everything fails in this life we will be raised to be with the Lord in eternal glory where happiness everlasting dwells and in this life rest in the confidence and faith that the Lord is with us by his Spirit and his love.

**I will be exalted among the nations and in the earth:** (v10) refers to Christ's return in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign. The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth. Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states:

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that:

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

7

The great prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory. For further information see titles:

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

---

*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

---