

## *PSALMS 46 and 47*

In Psalm 46 the sons of Korah lift their voices in praise to the God of Israel. We might think of it as "The Psalm of Holy Confidence." Whatever may happen, we too can rest in the assurance that the God of Jacob is our fortress.

### Psalm 46

**For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah, set to Alamoth. A Song.**

- 1 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, the earth melts.
- 7 YAHWEH of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah
  
- 8 Come, behold the works of YAHWEH, 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 YAHWEH of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Selah

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### Psalm 47

**For the choir director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah.**

We are not told what the memorable occasion was which prompted the sons of Korah to pen this psalm of victory. But it is very clear that both the present sovereignty of Yahweh and the final victories of our Lord are here proclaimed. Amid all the turmoils of our earthly pilgrimage, let us never forget that God reigns over all the earth. He alone is King.

- 1 Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!
- 2 For YAHWEH, the Most High, is to be feared, a great king over all the earth.

- 3 He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.
- 4 He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. Selah
  
- 5 God has gone up with a shout, YAHWEH with the sound of a trumpet.
- 6 Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
- 7 For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm!
- 8 God reigns over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.
- 9 The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham.  
For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted!

#### PRAYER

*O God, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Be ready, we beseech you, to hear the devout prayers of your people. In all our dangers and needs, stretch forth the right hand of your majesty to help and defend us. And grant that we may sing your praises with hearts filled with gratitude and love while we wait for the blessed appearance of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.*