

Be Still and Know that I am God **Psalm 46:10**

INTRO:

Several years ago, Kathy, the family, and I were invited to a concert when we were on vacation. This concert was in an evangelical Christian church and so we thought it would be acceptable fare. Little did we know what we would find when we got there. I remember the volume of the so called music of the concert was so loud I literally could not make out the words being sung. Kathy leaned over to me and said, *“Put your fingers in your ears and you will be able to hear what she is singing.”* I did that and she was singing at the top of her lungs to the din, ***“Be Still and Know that I am God!”***

“Be Still and Know that I am God!” is from the 46th Psalm. If we are to do this, we need to understand what it means. How can we today ***“Be still and know that He is God?”***

I. The Command – Be Still and Know

II. The Reality – I Shall Be Exalted

I. The Command – Be Still and Know

A. In **Psalm 46**, the Psalmist sang of Yahweh’s power and provision. There is a repeating refrain, (**verses 7 and 11**), which sums up the message of the song.

“The LORD of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”

The covenant keeping God, Yahweh, Who is the commander of the armies of God is with us. And the God Who identifies Himself with Jacob is the refuge into which we can run and be safe!

1. The Psalmist introduced this theme by reminding us about our God. He wrote:

v.1 ***“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble”***

In **verses 2 and 3**, he reminds us, there is no reason for fear even when the things which cannot move are moved!

“Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea, though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah.”

2. In **verses 4-6** he reminds us of God’s provision and protection of His people.

“There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted.”

We need to see this picture in our minds. This leads into the first refrain and concise statement of his premise.

3. In **verses 8-9**, the Psalmist called us to examine the evidence of God's supernatural deliverance of His people.

“Come, behold the works of the LORD, Who has made desolations in the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two; He burns the chariot in the fire.”

B. Finally we arrive at our text and the climax of this Psalm. God, Himself, broke into the Psalm to speak to us. Hear the command. ***“Be Still,”*** cease from all your activity and noise and know that I am God.

1. Some think this a call to all those who fight with the people of God to cease from their attacks and learn that God is the LORD and He will fight for His people. We do find references to God fighting for His people in the Bible. For example, in **Exodus 14:3-4**,

“For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, ‘They are bewildered by the land; the wilderness has closed them in.’ Then I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will gain honor over Pharaoh and over all his army, that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD.”

2. While God desires the enemies of His people to know that He is the LORD, He is far more concerned that His own people learn He is the LORD. This is why He spoke in this Psalm to address us, the readers and hearers of this song. Cease from your activity. Stop all the noise in your life. Be still and learn and know I am God!

C. Why is it important we learn this truth? The fact is, until we recognize Who He is, what He is capable of doing, and how much He loves us, we will never reap the benefits of His promises. Promises like in **Psalm 95:6-7**,

“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.”

It is our Lord's teaching us who He is that causes us to bow down in real and acceptable worship.

II. The Reality – I Shall Be Exalted

Psalm 46:10 ***“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”***

A. The lesson we need to learn is He will be exalted in His creation. God will ultimately succeed in His works and plans on planet earth. Even the heathen, who do not know our God, will one day acknowledge He is God and God alone.

B. I have long gotten goose bumps in reading passages like **Numbers 14:20** and **21**

“Then the LORD said: ‘I have pardoned, according to your word; but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.’”

God swore by Himself that, although His people will not obey and glorify Him, He will be glorified. It will happen and no one and nothing can stop it from taking place. To ensure we know that this is coming God moved Habakkuk to write, ***“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2:14.*** The day is coming in which all the earth will know Who the LORD is and will acknowledge He is God and Lord!

C. Why is it so important that we learn this truth?

1. Our knowledge of this reality gives us the strength to persevere in the crises of life. Our God, Who is with us in the valleys, is the God Who will ultimately triumph over all things in the end.

2. If we know these things to be true, it gives us a perspective from which to evaluate what is happening now in our lives. Because we know He is in control and He will ultimately be glorified in all the earth, we know that we also shall someday be glorified with Him!

3. But we will only be assured of these realities, if we take time in our lives to ***“Be still and know that He is God!”*** We don’t need to have it screamed to us. We need to hear it in the Word of God.

Remember in the book of **Esther** how when things looked the worse, the LORD was at work in the background. Let me read **Esther 3:15**

“The couriers went out, hastened by the king’s command; and the decree was proclaimed in Shushan the citadel. So the king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Shushan was perplexed.”

At that moment it looked extremely black. What could be worse? How could anyone deliver the Jews? But God did it. In 48 hours, Haman was done and a decree was made that the Jews could defend themselves. This how our God works. We need to look at our crisis today with the eyes of faith.

Hymn #26 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God