

## "A Secure Foundation"

As we have learned on the NEWS of the shootings in Lewiston, Maine, where, as of this writing, 18 people have been killed or injured at the hands of a suspected mentally disturbed person. Further, in my own neighborhood, a high school student, with emotional problems, fired a handgun on the grounds of his school. While he hit no one, we are further reminded of the emotional and mental challenges that too many of not only our young people, but also adults are facing and succumbing to the evil of violence with a deadly weapon, regardless of what that weapon may be. That even includes a disturbed person driving their pickup onto a Parade Route a few months ago in a fit of rage over "slow traffic"!

Also, the most horrific terrorism that is occurring in the Middle East (Israel), and the ongoing terrorism in the Ukraine, makes us wonder "When will this all END?" What is going on in this world where all this evil is becoming all too much a regular part of our NEWS stories and even for some in our personal lives, with loved ones, in the uniforms of the United States Military, standing by to quell the violence and death in far off lands, for others who are fighting and dying for their very lives and freedoms that we too often take for granted. Even the weather and earthquakes seem to be against us.

As noted in our Prayer Requests for today (10-26-2023) we see on the NEWS – What is Happening – but we can also see the comfort that He is ready to give in His Words in the Holy Bible. As an example, I want to share with you a "Devotional Message" I received via Email the other day:

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## "A Secure Foundation"

*Psalm 46:1, 11 - God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble ... The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Reading through all of Psalm 46, we find disaster piled on top of terrifying disaster. The earth that we expect to remain solid and unmoving beneath our feet fails us and "gives way" in earthquakes and landslides. Mountains are "moved into the heart of the sea," and the sea itself roars and foams with power that makes the mountains tremble (see Psalm 46:2-3). Added to the natural disasters are the catastrophes created by people. "The nations rage, the kingdoms totter" (Psalm 46:6a). All of these frightening events are beyond our ability to control. These solid, foundational things, the earth and the sea and the governments of our world, may suddenly give way at any moment. We are left searching for stability, for a firm foundation on which to stand.

The first and last verses of this psalm describe the only true, unmoving foundation possible for our lives. The psalm begins, "God is our refuge and strength," and at its end we hear the comforting words, "The LORD of hosts is with us; God of Jacob is our fortress." God is "a very present help in trouble." Our Lord is with us now and always as a refuge and fortress. He is our place of safety, the One to whom we run in times of trouble. The Lord Jesus is "the Stone that the builders rejected" (Psalm 118:22a). Taking onto Himself the disaster of the world's sins, the disaster of our sins, He suffered the penalty of death that we deserved. On the first Easter morning, Jesus rose up in triumph over sin, death, and the powers of evil, over every disastrous thing done to Him, over every eternally disastrous thing that threatened us. The risen and exalted Lord has become the Cornerstone of our lives, the solid foundation on which we stand. As the apostle Paul writes, "For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11).

The shuddering earth and the roaring seas, the raging nations and tottering kingdoms are frightening. Things we thought were solid suddenly shift beneath our feet. Their shaking unsettles us, but these same terrifying events are themselves subject to the authority of our Lord. He "utters His voice, the earth melts" (Psalm 46:6b). He is the LORD of hosts, that is, the Lord of the armies of heaven, who tells the raging nations, "Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations" (Psalm 46:10a). In frightening times, today and in the future, the God who redeemed us is present with us. He is our refuge and our fortress, our place of safety and the place to make a stand."

(This Daily Devotion was written by Dr. Carol Geisler.)

While the words above that are from the Bible, written those thousands of years ago, still remain so true today. They are not obsolete; they still relate to us today. God's word remains everlasting and is as true today as they were in the past and will be tomorrow. ALL we have to do is ask for His Forgiveness for those things that we have done and even those things that we have left undone with, or to, our neighbor and HIM. He DOES understand our sorrow and pain. He DOES want to be there for us. So much so, that: *"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."* (John 3:16)

**I PRAY: *Lord Jesus, You are my hiding place and my help in times of trouble. I ask for Your forgiveness, for Your Grace and Mercy, and that You WILL be with me, my refuge and fortress, and for this world. In Your Holy Name. Amen.***