

Fear looms large as personal and global crisis confront us.

‘There have been so many mass fears in history it’s surprising the world hasn’t scared itself to death!’

Jesus said: ‘Men’s hearts will fail them for fear (courage will fail completely as they realize what is threatening the world, for the very powers of heaven will be shaken.’ (Luke 21:25)

The Sons of Korah composed a worship song in a time of crisis: from which God delivered them, so they hope and trust in God.

‘God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.’ (46:1)

“Man is born to trouble as surely as sparks fly upward.” Job 5:7

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

There is no progress in the Christian life until we realize that life is more tragic than orderly. (Oswald Chambers)

This is national – political – global trouble.

Pictured as *‘the earth giving way and the mountains falling into the heart of the sea, ... waters roaring and foaming and the mountains quaking with their surging.* (46:2-3)

Not just poetry – it is reality.

A shaking earth and tossing sea contrast the city with a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. (46:4)

*Psalms 46-48 parallel Isaiah’s description of Jerusalem besieged by King Sennacherib in 701 B.C. Using water imagery, Isaiah warned Judah that Jerusalem would be flooded by the mighty river of the Assyrian army. ‘This people has rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah ...therefore the Lord is about to bring against them the mighty floodwaters of the Euphrates—king of Assyria...will cover the breadth of your land, Immanuel’ (8:6-8). King Hezekiah prays: ‘Now, LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, LORD, are God.’ (2 Kgs 19:19) Isaiah answers: “**There the Lord will be our Mighty One.***

***It will be like a place of broad rivers and streams. No galley with oars will ride them, no mighty ship will sail them.”** (Is 33:21) SAFETY IS PROMISED.*

The central thought in Psalm 46: **“The Lord of hosts is with us”** (46:4,7,11) - Matthew 1:23.

THE SEA: **NATURE:** This is not summer at the beach building sandcastles! Earthquake! Sea is churning and crashing. Deafening. Destructive. **Not seasick! World-sick! 2004 Boxing Day Aceh Earthquake / Tsunami.**

SIN NATURE: The wicked are like the tossing sea, which cannot rest. (Isaiah 57:20)

THE NATIONS: The many nations...rage like the raging sea! (Isaiah 17:12)

CREATION: *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* Darkness Chaos Disorder

THE CITY: No river runs through Jerusalem. This is the New Jerusalem – where the *‘river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flows from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city.’* (Revelation 22:1-2)

There God is present with his people in the place of future world prosperity and peace.

There is **‘no sea’** (Revelation 21:1). **No chaos – darkness – division -- disorder – death.**

Despite their distress – through the trouble – a vow is made: We will not fear! (46:2)

WHY? 1 God is our refuge... strength...present help...fortress (7,11).

A refuge is for refugees. Christian exiles (1 Peter 1:1-2). God is a safe place to hide.

God is in control of the whole world and your world. **It is not I, but WE and OUR.**

Personalize your faith but don’t individualize the Church. This is a community Song.

God is unmistakably here for us in the community of God’s worshipping people.

HOW?

8. Come and see what the Lord has done, the desolations he has brought on the earth.9. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth .He breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. 10. He says, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalm 46:8-10

8. Come and See

CRISIS = Gk: KRISIS

The Outcome is Peace and the Process is Judgement.

‘Now is the judgment (crisis) of the world.’ John 12:32

THE ACTION OF CHRIST’S CROSS DETERMINES ALL HISTORY

9. ACEH 2004

30 year long civil war ended.

Christinas enter closed land.

10. Be Still

He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth.

God brings peace, not diplomats. **‘The Gospel, has mankind’s inevitable word and its eternal destiny.’**

Comfort to the harassed? Or rebuke to the restless?

God speaks – addressing the whole creation!

Jesus silences wind and waves and sin and graves.

The matter of the moment is the reality of the risen Lord...of the finished victory in the Cross... that as Christ, He still rules the Kingdom...and that He is not sitting apart, solemnly superannuate like a retired and cloistered emperor ... NO, but He watches the Kingdom as the king who ever rules. And the Kingdom will never be but what He is continually making it. PT Forsyth- Per Crucem ad Lucem.