Immanuel = We’re Secure in the Battle December 17, 2023

*Psalm 46:1-11 Series: God With Us at Christmas*

Only he who can say, “The Lord is the strength of my life,” can say, “Of whom shall I be afraid?” – Alexander McClaren

Intro: When you need a mighty fortress

1. Immanuel gives you the refuge and strength to be fearless
2. When the bullets fly, you need a bunker

v. 1 *God is our refuge*

Psalm 91:2 *I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”*

1. When you feel weak, you need God’s strength

v. 1 *God is our … strength*

1. God’s nearness makes us fearless

v. 1 *a very present help in trouble*

Deuteronomy 4:7 *For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon him?*

v. 2 *Therefore we will not fear …*

Lamentations 3:57 *You came near when I called on you; you said, “Do not fear!”*

vv. 2-3 *though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling*

* What’s the difference between refuge and strength?
* What has helped you to find refuge in God?
* What causes our fear? How can Immanuel help?

1. Immanuel gives you the joy and help to be immoveable
2. There isn’t a river in Jerusalem, or is there?

v. 4 *There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God*

John 7:38-39 *Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive …*

1. The joy and the help only come with God’s nearness

v. 4 *the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High*

v. 5 *God is in the midst of her …*

v. 7 *The LORD of hosts is with us …*

v. 7 *the God of Jacob is our fortress*

1. God’s nearness keeps you from throwing up the white flag

v. 5 *she shall not be moved*

v. 5 *God will help her when morning dawns.*

v. 6 *The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

Exodus 14:13 *And Moses said to the people, “Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today.”*

* Why was a river inside the walls so vital for an ancient city?
* Why would it make the people in the city “glad”?
* How does the Holy Spirit function like that in a believer’s life?
* What helps you hold on when help comes in the morning and morning feels like a long way off?

1. You receive Immanuel’s power by beholding Him and being still
2. Put your focus off of your problems and onto God’s wonders

v. 8 *Come, behold the works of the LORD, how he has brought desolations on the earth.*

v. 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.*

1. Only in stillness before Him can you see the Lord as great and your problems as small

v. 10 *Be still, and know that I am God.*

Psalm 37:7 *Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!*

v. 10 *I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!*

Nahum 1:7 *The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; he knows those who take refuge in him.*

* How can you “behold the works of the LORD”? What are you actually supposed to do?
* It’s ironic to talk about being “still” in a psalm dealing with earthquakes. How do you do that? What clarification does Psalm 37:7 give?
* How can you “exalt” God in the midst of a crisis?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Ezekiel 37:24-28.

Notes