

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Be Still...

(Jerry Fite)

**A** Well known passage in the Psalms is “*Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth*” (Psalm 46:10). But is it understood in our modern day of carving out some devotion time in our daily accomplishments? Let’s say we meet the dawn in quiet meditation of God’s greatness. We are “still” for a moment to contemplate and honor God as our Creator, and then rise to meet the day. We were “still” to “know” who God is, but are we applying this Scripture to our life?

In Psalm 46, there are a lot of things going on, but a quiet morning for peaceful reflection is not one of them. Mountains are shaking into the seas and waters are rising with a terrifying roar (v.2-3). “Fear” is the emotion, not peace (v.2). Knowing God as our “refuge is the goal (v.1), not acknowledging Him as our Creator. Earth is changing under our feet, and standing firm is seriously in question. We are fretting, and God shouts above all the clamor for us first to “be still”.

The Hebrew word “raphah” translated “still” means to “slack or let drop”. In some contexts it means to “be disheartened or weak”. God is speaking to those of us who live as if it all depends upon us. We can meet any challenge and overcome it alone. God tells us to be “disheartened” a bit in our own estimation of ourselves. Let your busy hands controlling your life drop in humility.

While we should take personal responsibility and “work out” what God “works in” (cf. *Philippians 2:12-13*), we must also understand we do not control all facets of our life. We live today, if God “wills” us to live. All our wise planning and focused energy toward “today or “tomorrow” does not profit us if we die and not see the end of the day (cf. *James 4:13-17*). When we think our life is dependent on ourselves alone, God is telling us to “be still and know that I am God.”

When you are facing overwhelming circumstances which rock you to the core, how do you react? Are you like the

children of Israel when they were trapped by Pharaoh and his army? They complained of being led to the wilderness to die. Pinched in by the Red Sea and an angry Pharaoh, they conclude “*For it were better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness*” (*Exodus 14:12*). Relying on their own resources, they resign to certain death. Moses counteracts with, “*Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of Jehovah, which He will work for you today...Jehovah will fight for you, and he shall hold your peace.*” (*Exodus 14:13-14*).

As with Israel, so does God speak to His people today. Depending on our own resources, and seeing them fail before our eyes, we tend to resign to certain doom. Psalm 46 teaches us to stop with all the self-dependency noise, drop our hands in humility, and understand we have God as our refuge.

Look up, and with a quiet spirit realize God is above all things. He is capable and ready to remedy your fear.