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May 2020



Tony and Jane Derrick

Dear Ministry Partner,

Dallas county, in which ZLM operates, has been ordered to shelter in place until at least April 30. Essential businesses may continue operating for essential needs, such as groceries and urgent medical care. Most of us have remote access to our office computers, so we are still processing donations and purchases but not “rushing” orders. Our staff’s prayers go up daily for everyone affected by today’s pandemic respiratory virus, which has caught the world off guard.

As you and I struggle in stressful and uncertain times, let’s take a break from our monthly study in Ecclesiastes to look at an encouraging and uplifting Psalm. Numerous psalms offer reassurance, but for this hour, I believe Psalm 46 is ideal for lifting our spirits and enabling our souls to rejoice in our almighty God. In fact, it was Psalm 46 that inspired Martin Luther to write that powerful hymn, “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.”

I pray that for the next few minutes you can set aside the anxieties of your current life and allow the wisdom of this psalm to bring peace and rest to your soul and mind.

TO TRUST GOD IN ALL THINGS

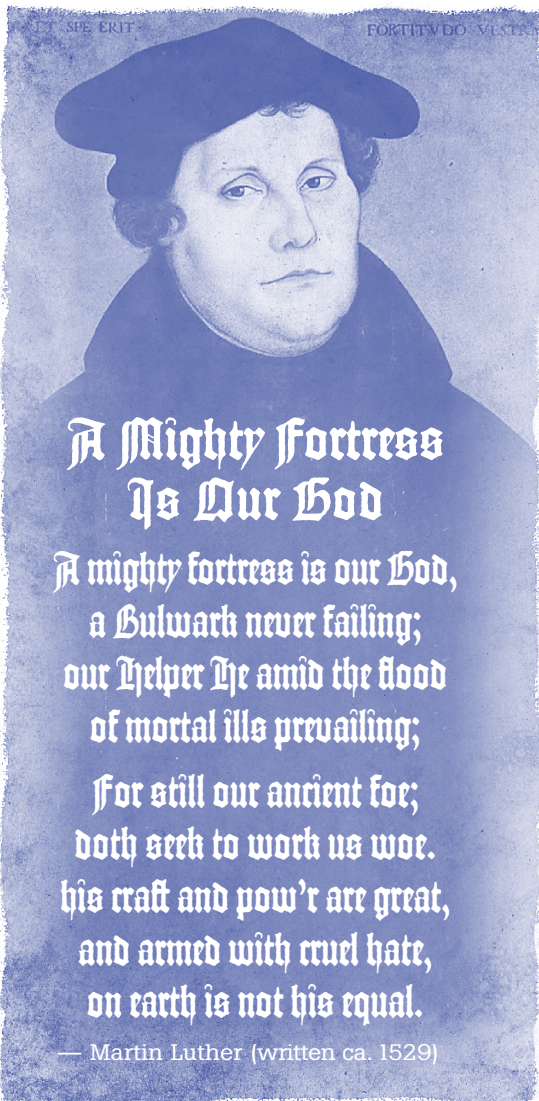
Before picking up my pen (yes, I write on paper before going to the computer), I always read the chapter or passage at hand in several different translations. I found a consistent title to Psalm 46: *To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. A Song for Alamo.*

This psalm was not given to just anyone but rather to the musician of the highest rank in the Temple. The sons of Korah were perhaps Levites who served in the Temple, and the term *alamoth* indicated it was to be sung

by soprano or tenor voices. This psalm’s purpose was to stir the soul of Israel to trust God in all things.

The psalm, or song, divides naturally into three sections.

(over please)



Martin Luther (1529) by Lucas Cranach the Elder

— Martin Luther (written ca. 1529)



The Psalmist David: Worship, woodcut for *Die Bibel in Bildern* (1860) by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1794–1872)

SECTION ONE

Verses 1–3 identify God as the Refuge for all His chosen people.

God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. ² Therefore we will not fear, Even though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; ³ Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. Selah

God will always be present to help. No matter what happens, He is the Believer's* haven.

Another psalm of David (Psalm 62) tells us, *"Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah"* (Psalm 62:8)

Never forget that God is our refuge now just as He was when David penned this psalm. God alone is our all in all. He is our sufficiency and our defense in every emergency. He is by our side; this is emphasized by the word "very" in verse 1 of Psalm 46.

Verses 2 and 3 follow the declaration of the first with a confidence in God. *"Therefore we will not fear."* Even if the foundations of the earth give way to floods and earthquakes destroy dynasties, when Believers are persecuted around the world for their faith and the worst seems to have come, our confidence and trust remain in God. The section ends with the term *Selah*, which is a pause or rest in a musical score but can also represent a moment for the reader to meditate on the words just read. So, please take a moment.

SECTION TWO

Verses 4–7 instill confidence that God is the life-giving Defender 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. ⁵ God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God shall help her, just at the break of dawn. ⁶ The nations raged, the kingdoms were moved; He uttered His voice, the earth melted. ⁷ The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

We read in verse 4 that Jerusalem and the city's peace were secured by God. We can be confident that God will, one day in the future, secure the peace of



The Psalmist David: Repentance, woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

* "Believers" is short for "believers in Yeshua/Jesus as Messiah."

Jerusalem for all eternity. His presence is like a flowing river. It is the water of life. The Lord's river in Zion is clear, cool, fresh, and abundant.

In times of war, Middle-Eastern cities feared a cut-off water supply. If the city's water was secure, it could hold out against a siege. The all-sufficient grace of God is like an unending, refreshing river that will sustain the Believer until the end of the age. John wrote about it in Revelation 22:1, *"And the angel showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb."*



The Psalmist David: Supplication, woodcut by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld

Verse 5 reminds us that just as God was in the midst of Jerusalem so that the only way to defeat the Holy City was to defeat Him, so it is with Believers today. He is here. He indwells His people in the presence of His Holy Spirit. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 6:19–20, *"Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For, you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."*

He never forgets us. He is never late. It appears that though the world is in the darkest hours of the night, when the morning light shines, we will see His hand of love, mercy, and grace everywhere. *"Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: Great is Your faithfulness."* (Lamentations 3:22–23)

Verse 6 brings great encouragement to know that the voice of God changes the earthly scene in a snap for the Believer. He is a fortress, a high place, and a stronghold to His people. So, speak a word of hope from God to your neighbor, friend, spouse, or child. Each one of us as Believers in Yeshua can be a shining light of the Gospel, if only from a social distance.

Verse 7 follows with a reminder that *"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah"* Again, now is a good time to rest and meditate on the verses in this section.

SECTION THREE

The last section of this psalm, verses 8–11, focuses on the exaltation and worship of God.

Come, behold the works of the Lord, Who has made desolations in the earth. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! ¹¹ The Lord of hosts is with us; The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah

Verses 8 and 9 are an invitation to view the mighty works of God in upholding and sustaining His

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people. He stepped in on behalf of Israel and defeated its enemies, and He will do that for you and me.

We know that the spiritual battle has already been won on the Cross. Now we wait for the ultimate and glorious victory when He appears as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and rules a new Heaven and Earth from the eternal city, Jerusalem.

The final two verses remind the reader how the psalm began, "*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*" Because of that promise, we can be still and trust that God is in control of the world He created, even if it looks to be out of control.

I don't believe that verse 10 tells us to sit on our hands and do nothing. We have obligations as Believers to minister in whatever God has called us to do individually. He gave us that assurance to remind us He is here and that we can call on Him.

Verse 11 gives a different perspective of His presence. "*The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah*" — Rest.



Standing firm with Israel and ZLM,

Tony Derrick

P.S. God is, of course, omnipresent; so, unlike our ministry's staff, He cannot be "sheltered in place" at any time. We are a resourceful bunch, however, and are processing badly needed contributions remotely from home. Thanks so much for those! ★

Your personal invitation to join Zola Tours in the Holy Land



On every *Our Jewish Roots* program, we encourage you to *Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim*, Hebrew for "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Praying for Jerusalem and all of Israel is vital, but so is financially supporting the Holy Land. One of the best ways to uphold Israel is to *go there* as soon as today's pandemic has run its course.

Israel needs visitors! Tourism provides a substantial source of revenue for the Holy Land. Pilgrims not only walk where our Savior walked, but also fulfill Isaiah 60:10, which prophesies "foreigners shall build up your walls." If you feel called to fortify the walls of Jerusalem and enjoy a life-changing experience, please contact Zola Tours manager Sandra at **214-696-9760**, travel@levitt.com, or levitt.com/tours. She can help you prepare for your journey of a lifetime!

Fall Tour 2020 options

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Deluxe (Israel only) | Oct 19–29 | \$5,288 |
| Grand Petra (Israel & Petra) | Oct 19–Nov 01 | \$6,488 |
| Grand Athens (Greece & Israel) | Oct 13–29 | \$8,288 |
| Ultra Grand (Greece & Israel & Petra) | Oct 13–Nov 01 | \$9,488 |

Prices include tips, taxes, & fuel surcharge (subject to change).

NOTE:
We now spend
one extra day
in Jerusalem!

A Note from David and Kirsten Hart

Blessings and shalom. May the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob guard and keep you during these unprecedented times. More than ever, we Believers need to dig deep into our faith to find the peace that passes all understanding and a joy beyond what we can imagine. We are thankful that our God doesn't sleep or slumber (Psalm 121:4). Rest assured, even in these days with circumstances changing on a daily basis, our God remains unchanged.

As Believers in Yeshua, we need to focus on the silver linings, even though they may be difficult to see. While our ministry office is closed through April 30 due to a county decree, more viewers than ever are at home and available to benefit from our television program, news magazines, website, and social media outreach. Abiding by the shelter-in-place rulings, hungry souls are seeking sources of *hope*—exactly the bread we cast upon the water via *Our Jewish Roots (OJR)*. That's why we need your donations and prayer support at this tumultuous time.

ZLM has never asked the needy for contributions; longtime readers and viewers know this. Meanwhile, we didn't anticipate being handicapped on filling orders for our Bible teaching materials. Understandably, our revenue is way down. However, we still need to keep spreading the Gospel and the message of Christianity's Jewish roots.

If you believe in what this ministry does (and you're financially able), would you prayerfully go "above and beyond" with a gift toward our work? You are vitally important to the ministry that Zola began four decades ago. Also, please continue ordering our teaching resources; just give us an extra week or so to deliver.

Our Jewish Roots programs this month

In our brand-new television series *Kings and Kingdoms*, **Dr. Jeffrey Seif** teaches from the Books of 1 and 2 Kings. He examines the rulers of ancient Israel and Judah, who reveal lessons in Godly leadership. David and Kirsten Hart discuss their applications for today. Throughout this eight-part series, we hear Israeli perspectives on the kings, and **Sarah Liberman** teaches Hebrew words for worship.

Israel's First Kings — On the Mount of

Olives, Dr. Seif discusses the reason and roles of the first two kings of Israel — Saul and David — as well as the expectations placed on them. Those in leadership — in fact, all Believers — face a constant temptation to drift away from Biblical values.



Jeff Seif



Sarah Liberman

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Kingdom Divided — Solomon, the wisest man, made foolish mistakes by letting in outside influences and allowing his heart to drift away from the Lord. His son Rehoboam drifted much farther. His oppressive policies caused Jeroboam to lead 10 of the 12 tribes in rebellion, creating the northern Kingdom of Israel. The two tribes that remained — Judah and Benjamin — formed the southern Kingdom of Judah.

Israel's Omri and Ahab — Illustrating how bad people can come to power in misguided ways, Omri seized the throne of Israel by mutiny. Deterioration continued when his heir Ahab (the worst king ever) not only turned away from God but actively opposed Him.

Israel's Jeroboam II and Hoshea — Even though King Jeroboam II was evil, he was praised for securing Israel's border. Leaders should be trustworthy, not bloodthirsty. Israel's King Hoshea reaped what he sowed and, unfortunately, so did Israel at the hands of the Assyrians.

As people of faith, we ministry workers will continue to walk into these next weeks and months of uncertainty even when we don't see a clear path. After all, we know that God will provide a way for us — just as He did for Moses and the Israelites. God is a way-maker. It's part of His character, and we trust that He will continue to provide sustenance and direction for us all.

Thank you in advance for all you do to keep this ministry alive and effective. Please continue to pray for us, as we will be praying for you. Keep watching *OJR* on television, your computer, or your smart phone! At www.levitt.com, our television programs and news magazines are just a click away.



Sha'alu shalom Yerushalayim!—

"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!" (Psalm 122:6)

David & Kirsten

David & Kirsten

P.S. Let our ministry's website www.levitt.com be a source of learning and growth during your time at home. You'll find an abundance of online reading, answers to frequently asked questions, and a library of all our best television programs. Just think of the wisdom available to you for *free!* ★

Here's a search tip for levitt.com:

If you want to read an edition that has given you the "no longer available" message, just add **&open** to the URL line. E.g.:

<https://www.levitt.com/no-longer-available?fn=newsletters/2017-12.pdf&open>



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Psalms of Ascent DVDs

Eight 30-minute TV programs on two DVDs

In this eight-part television series, Jeff Seif and Sandra Levitt examine Psalms 120 to 134, known as the "Psalms of Ascent." These psalms, sung by ancient Jews going up to the Temple in Jerusalem, are surprisingly appropriate and timely for Believers today. "Our Man in Haifa" Eitan Shishkoff and the music of Marty Goetz are featured.

Psalms 120 & 121 From the UN headquarters in Jerusalem, Jeff reminds us that King David had to deal with deceitful enemies and distress but realized that his sure source of help was the Lord.

Psalms 122 & 123 This ministry's signoff is "Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" from Psalm 122. Jerusalem has had its share of battles, yet is still central in the hearts of Jews and Christians.

Psalms 124 & 125 The Lord has sustained Israel these many centuries. King David saw divine protection and likened it to the mountains around Jerusalem.

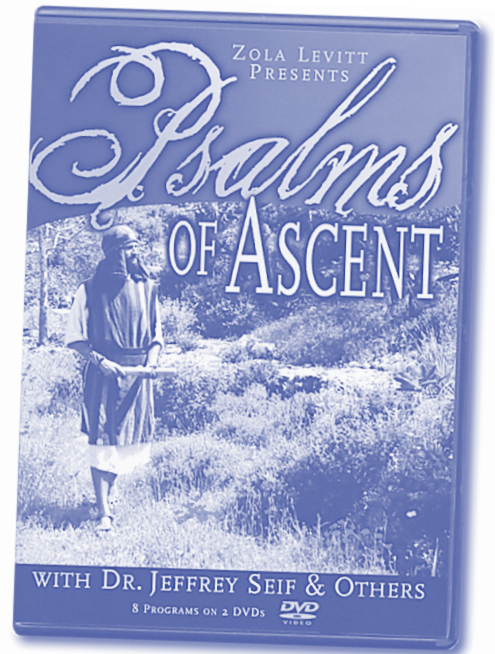
Psalms 126 & 127 The Israelites have returned to the Promised Land. At the Temple Mount, we learn that human efforts to build are in vain without the Lord's protection.

Psalms 128 & 129 The psalms clearly teach that fear of the Lord and honoring His ways bring blessings to individuals. Israel has seen much affliction, but the Lord's support is unwavering.

Psalms 130 & 131 God's ears are open to our cries for help. Always there, He faithfully pours out His forgiveness and redemption. Believers need to pray for an awakening among His People.

Psalms 132 & 133 The Lord chose Jerusalem as His abiding place; it remains His to this very day, despite replacement theologies. In this fractious world, dwelling together in unity is a blessing.

Psalm 134 Many come up to Jerusalem, seeking and praising God. Marty Goetz sings a wonderful rendition of "Benediction."



Psalms of Ascent DVDs

- ___ 1 set DVDs – \$58
- ___ 2 sets DVDs – \$98

See next page for our Combo Value Package

Prices include shipping. Please allow 2–3 weeks for order processing.

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Please return this entire page with your order or donation. Thanks.

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Where and when do you watch Our Jewish Roots?

ZLM needs to ensure that we support the stations and networks that you appreciate. Please check only your primary viewing info below.

I WATCH YOUR PROGRAM ON:

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- TBN, Thursdays 6:30pm ET
- TCT, Sundays 7:00pm ET
- Online, e.g. levitt.tv, YouTube, Roku, etc.
- My local channel's call letters are: _____
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- I am unable to receive *Our Jewish Roots*.
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If you have given us this information in the past year, please don't provide it again unless your station or viewing time has changed.





Grafted-in decal

This ancient Messianic symbol combines the menorah, Star of David, and Christian fish. Whether you put our unique golden decal on your Bible, car window, doorpost, or purse, you can be sure to stir curiosities and witnessing opportunities with this tribute to light, God, and abundant love. The delicate, hand-cut stencil measures 1.2" x 3".

- ___ 1 **Grafted-in** decal – \$7
- ___ 3 **Grafted-in** decals – \$11
- ___ 5 **Grafted-in** decals – \$15

"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" bumper sticker

Printed on removable vinyl, this attractive bumper sticker measures 3" by 11" and has a striking 3-D effect. Bold white letters of Psalm 122:6 jump out from the blue and black background.



Pass some on to your friends!

"Pray for the Peace of Jerusalem" bumper sticker

- ___ 1 bumper sticker – \$7
- ___ 2 bumper stickers – \$8
- ___ 5 bumper stickers – \$10

Combo Value Package: One of Each! — \$62

- 1 set of *Psalms of Ascent* DVDs
- 1 **Grafted-In** decal
- 1 **Pray for Peace** bumper sticker

Prices include shipping. Please allow 2–3 weeks for order processing.

Please return this entire page with your order or donation. Thanks.

2005

Dear Tony,

(please check appropriate boxes)

- God is the New Testament Believers' refuge, just as He was and still is Israel's protector and refuge today.
- Here is my donation for **May**, with my prayerful hope that ZLM staff and partners remain healthy to spread the Gospel and rejoice.
- I am ordering teaching materials on the enclosed pages totaling:

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