

Mar Daily Bible reading

27 Exodus 38, Prov 14, Mark 3: 1-6, 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, Psalms 39:1-6
28 Exodus 39, Prov 15, Mark 3: 7-12, 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, Psalms 39: 7-13
29 Exodus 40, Prov 16, Mark 3: 13-19, 1 Corinthians 16:5-11, Psalms 40: 1-5
30 Leviticus 1, Prov 17, Mark 3:20-35, 1 Corinthians 16:12-18, Psalms 40: 6-10
31 Leviticus 2-3, Prov 18, Mark 4:1-20, 1 Corinthians 16:19-24, Psalms 40: 11-17

April

1 Leviticus 4, Prov 19, Mark 4:21-34, 2 Corinthians 1:1-11, Psalms 41: 1-6
2 Leviticus 5, Prov 20, Mark 4:35-41, 2 Corinthians 1: 12-24, Psalms 41: 7-13



Mountain view taken from Gimmelwald in the Swiss Alps.



Sermons on line — Just a reminder that a back catalogue of sermons are available online. New sermons are uploaded to our web site each Friday.

www.scotschurch.com/sermons

Sunday 11am, Sunday 5pm, Wednesday 1pm, and Thursday 1pm services.

St Stephen's Flemington Sunday service.

The Indonesian Sunday service can be found at www.icc-melbourne.org/sermons

Contact Details

Minister to the CBD: Rev Richard O'Brien

Mobile: 0415978561

Email: richard@scotschurch.com

How to contact us

Telephone information and after hours answering service: 9650 9903

Emergency contact: 0425 884 034

(only to be used if you have been unable to contact an Elder or Minister)

Email: admin@scotschurch.com Web: www.scotschurch.com

Maintaining your free-will offerings

Please continue to provide your normal free-will offerings. They are more important than ever at this critical time. There are three ways you can do this:

- By electronic transfer to BSB **083 004**, Account number **630 327 585**
 - By cheque made out to The Scots' Church Melbourne and posted to 1/156 Collins Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

Engage

27 March 2020



Newsletter

The Scots' Church Melbourne 5pm service

God is our refuge – Psalm 46:1-3

How can we maintain our spiritual bearings in such a time as this?

Psalm 46 has been called Luther's Psalm. It is a song of holy confidence in troubled times. It's a song we need to learn to sing with understanding if we're to come through such times - trusting in our God.

We don't know the precise historical setting of this Psalm. But that it came out of troubled times - is not doubted:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

In the Psalm there's this sense of greater troubles ahead.

Look at verse 6a – *The nations rage, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.*

Verse 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.* The Psalmist is writing in a time of upheaval, trouble, a time of natural disasters.

At the end of verses 3, 7 and 11. What word do we see?

The word 'selah'. This Psalm is basically a three verse song of praise.

Vs 1 to 3, 4 to 7, 8 to 11. What does that little word 'selah' mean?

They think it probably has some musical significance - a pause to let truth sink in. Perhaps a pause while the people meditate.

But the stanzas are natural.

Verses 1-3 God is the protector and the sustainer of his people in the face of all and any disaster.

Verses 4 to 7 God is the protector and sustainer of his church in the face of opposition. God is in the midst of her. The focus is on the city of God. Heavenly Jerusalem. We're understanding the Psalm in the light of Hebrews 12.

In Verses 8 to 11 God is the victor over all his enemies in the world. V8b, 9a, 10bc.

So the Psalm moves from the vision of God as the protector and sustainer of his people in the face of all calamities (vs 1-3), to God - the protector and the sustainer of his church in the face of all its opposition (vs 4-7), to the vision of God as the victor over all his enemies in the world (vs8-11).

In other words, this Psalm is God's answer to the three most burning

questions a believer can ask:

What will happen to me, in times of trouble?

What will happen to the church of God in times of trouble?

What will happen to the world during in times of trouble.

This Psalm gives a believer, what we need to know in troubled times.

In such times, let us thank God, that He is indeed our refuge, in times of trouble.

Yours sincerely
Richard O'Brien.

1. In troubled times.....God is our Refuge – Psalm 46: 1-3

A Psalm for such a time as this.

- A Global Pandemic
- We are not immuned from disasters
- How do we maintain our spiritual bearings?
- Psalm 46 has been called “Luther’s Psalm”

1. The Setting of the Psalm

- The heading of the Psalm.
- A Psalm written in troubled times. – vs 6, vs 9.
- Structure of the book – ‘selah’ – v 3,7,11
 - Vs 1-3
 - Vs 4-7
 - Vs 8-11
- This Psalm is God’s answer to three of our big questions:
- Assumption of the Psalm is that the people who sing this Psalm have a relationship with God.

2. A Declaration of Faith – God is - verse 1.

- ‘God is’
- This is the language of faith – Hebrews 11:6

3. How does God relate to me, in times of trouble?

- “trouble”
- Old Testament – Psalm 50:15, 77:2, 91:15, Isaiah 33:2, Jeremiah 16:19, Nahum 1:7
- New Testament – Romans , 2 Thessalonians 1:6, Revelation 1:9.
- What are the attributes of God’s character in troubled times?
 - God is our refuge (Psalms 14:6, 62:7-8, 81:2, Isaiah 25:4)
 - God is our strength
 - God a very present help in trouble

4. When faith relates to God as my refuge, strong and safe retreat, my ever-present help in trouble.

- ‘therefore we will not fear’
- Do we see what the Psalmist is doing?