

Tuesday, March 24, 2020

Turn off the outside "noise" for a couple of minutes and consider this message from God's Word.
I am praying that it calms your spirit and encourages your heart.

PSALM 46 (NIV)

⁶ **Nations** are in uproar, kingdoms fall;
he lifts his voice, **the earth** melts.

⁷ The LORD Almighty is **WITH** us;
the God of Jacob is **our fortress**.

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 **"BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD;**

I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth."

— PART 1 —

"Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts." — I read that as of yesterday 171 countries or regions have 307,341 confirmed Coronavirus COVIS-10 cases. 13,049 people have died of this disease. **We want to hear the Lord "lift his voice"!** (v. 6b)

"Almighty God, we long to hear your voice saying "Peace! Be still!" to this raging, surging virus! Pour your healing power over the nations! Comfort the grieving!"

Verse 6 ["Nations are in uproar..."] is a powerful reminder of the inevitability of war [Matthew 24:6-7] which we see and read about daily in the news, but even though we may not be able to see it or recognise it, calm is restored at God's command. The writer of this psalm knew whom to praise for the peace he saw and for the ultimate justice we still wait to see.

Although we view God at present from a world still subject to sin and suffering, decay and death, we need to take heart from the promise that he has not abandoned us, and there will come a day when justice and peace will be brought to all of creation by the one who holds the world in his hands.

This is our God. No storm too great for him [Mark 4:35-41], no dictator too strong. **[And we could add today: "no virus too virulent, no disease too contagious, no fear too infectious!" – Pastor Doug]** Even though we may wake already worried about the day ahead, we have this promise, that our God reigns. 'The Lord Almighty... is our fortress' (v 7).

What is the problem or the fear uppermost in your mind today?

Dare to ask God to help you see your problems through his eyes.

- KEN EDGECOMBE, *'Encounter with God' Bible Reading Notes* (© Scripture Union, 2001)
<http://www.jmm.org.au/articles/2510.htm>

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So let's tell our Abba Father the problem or the fear uppermost in our mind today
. . . and cry out to Him, ***"Help us see our problems through Your eyes!"***

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May God's joy and gladness be poured out on you today,

Pastor Doug

P.S. We would love to hear from you! How are you doing right now? And we would love to pray for you! Email us at info@bethanyonline.net

P.P.S. Keep checking this page — we will try to post fresh encouragement **every day** during this crisis!

P.P.P.S. And watch our **LIVE-STREAM Worship Service** this coming Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for more encouragement.