

Psalm 46:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth.

Analysis

This divine imperative 'Be still' (Hebrew 'raphah') means to let go, release, or cease striving—a call to stop self-reliant activity and recognize God's sovereignty. The command to 'know' (yada) implies intimate, experiential knowledge, not merely intellectual assent. God's double declaration 'I will be exalted' among nations and in all the earth asserts His universal reign and ultimate victory. This verse counters anxious activism with contemplative trust, echoing Exodus 14:14: 'The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.' It anticipates Christ's sovereignty over creation (Colossians 1:16-17).

Historical Context

Psalm 46, a 'song of Zion,' likely celebrates God's deliverance of Jerusalem, possibly from Sennacherib's siege (2 Kings 19). The psalm's confidence in God as refuge 'though the earth be removed' (v. 2) reflects Israel's theology of God's presence in Zion. Luther's hymn 'A Mighty Fortress' draws from this psalm.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life are you striving in your own strength rather than resting in God's sovereignty?
2. What would it look like practically to 'be still' and know God's presence in your current circumstances?

Interlinear Text

1	הָרֶפֶת	1	דָּעָה	1	אֱלֹהִים	אָרֶם
Be still	and know	H3588	H595	that I am God	I will be exalted	
H7503	H3045			H430		H7311
1	גּוֹיִם	אָרֶם	בָּאָרֶץ	בָּגּוֹיִם		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 100:3 (References God): Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Habakkuk 2:20 (Parallel theme): But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him.

Ezekiel 38:23 (Parallel theme): Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Zechariah 2:13 (Parallel theme): Be silent, O all flesh, before the LORD: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation.

Psalms 83:18 (Parallel theme): That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth.

Isaiah 2:17 (Parallel theme): And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day.

Psalms 57:5 (References God): Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.

1 Chronicles 29:11 (Parallel theme): Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O LORD, and thou art exalted as head above all.

Isaiah 5:16 (References God): But the LORD of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

Psalms 21:13 (Parallel theme): Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power.

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