

Psalm 46:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her, and that right early.

Analysis

The "her" refers to the city of God, Jerusalem, portrayed as feminine in Hebrew poetry (בָּתְּצִיּוֹן/bat-tzion, "daughter Zion"). "God is in the midst" (אֱלֹהִים בְּקִרְבָּה) emphasizes divine presence at the center, not periphery. "She shall not be moved" (בְּטַמֵּן-לֹא/bal-timmot) uses emphatic negation—absolutely will not totter or fall. This isn't human security but divine protection. "Right early" (לִפְנֵות בָּקָר/lifnot boqer) literally means "at the turn of morning" or "at daybreak"—God's help comes at the darkest hour, when dawn breaks. The verse expresses unshakeable confidence in God's protective presence within His dwelling place.

Historical Context

This psalm belongs to the "Songs of Zion" celebrating Jerusalem as God's dwelling place. Likely written after Jerusalem's miraculous deliverance from Sennacherib's siege (701 BC, 2 Kings 18-19), when 185,000 Assyrian soldiers died overnight. Or possibly celebrating God's faithfulness during other threats to Jerusalem. The city's security wasn't military might but God's presence. Prophetically, it points to the New Jerusalem where God dwells fully with His people (Revelation 21:3), eternally secure.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's presence "in the midst" provide stability when circumstances threaten to shake your life?
2. What does it mean that God's help comes "right early"—at daybreak after night's darkness—for situations you're currently facing?

Interlinear Text

בְּ	בַּ	קָרְבָּה	אֵ	לֹהֶם	תִּמְמָה	וְ	יְמַלֵּךְ	בְּ
God	is in the midst		H1077	of her she shall not be moved		H4131	shall help	
H430		H7130					H5826	
בְּ	לִפְנֵי	וְ	תִּמְמָה	בְּ	בְּ	בְּ	יְמַלֵּךְ	בְּ
God	her and that right		early					
H430		H6437		H1242				

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 2:5 (Parallel theme): For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her.

Joel 2:27 (References God): And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed.

Zephaniah 3:15 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, even the LORD, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more.

Ezekiel 43:7 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, the place of my throne, and the place of the soles of my feet, where I will dwell in the midst of the children of Israel for ever, and my holy name, shall the house of Israel no more defile, neither they, nor their kings, by their whoredom, nor by the carcases of their kings in their high places.

Psalms 62:2 (Parallel theme): He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

Isaiah 12:6 (Parallel theme): Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.

Psalms 112:6 (Parallel theme): Surely he shall not be moved for ever: the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance.

Zechariah 8:3 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Psalms 62:6 (Parallel theme): He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved.

Matthew 18:20 (Parallel theme): For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.