The God of Jacob is our Fortress

**Psalm 46**

Instant access to news, a hallmark of modern life, lets us hear of tragic events constantly. Among the negative outcomes:

\* We can easily become callous, where the pain of others no longer moves us, brings no emotional response.

\* We can be tempted to anger and hatred; notice how common and accepted it is today, to rant or vent. A few years ago these behaviors were considered immature, yet now we seem to applaud them.

The authors of this psalm draw 3 contrasts to help the worshipper trust God in the face of suffering and affliction

1) God vs. trouble vs. 1

God is our refuge and strength

He is ever present in trouble

2) Evil vs. divine help vs. 2-5

Despite trouble, we will not fear evil

God brings peace in the midst of turmoil

Psalm 65:7, Rev. 22:1-6

3) The nations vs. the people of God vs. 6-10

The nations are in uproar

God’s people are at rest, in stillness in His presence

Being still leads to worship and exaltation

Lamentations 3:33, James 1:20

‘The God of Jacob’ protects us vs. 11

What do the authors of the psalm mean by using that name?

(see his story in Genesis 25-50)

Reflection: so how does a follower of Jesus respond to acts of terror, war and tragedy?