

### **Psalm 46:1-7 (NIV)**

1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, 3 though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah 4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. 5 God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. 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. Selah

It seems that winter has finally arrived! With the recent snowfall and the bitter, cold temperatures it has reminded me of how much we appreciate the protection that our houses provide. The house that you live in provides protection from the elements of nature. It keeps you out of the direct, unbearable heat of the summer. It keeps the deadly cold temperatures out in the winter. It keeps you dry in the driving rains and provides you with a comfortable place to find rest.

But everyone knows that a house is not impenetrable. Fire can burn it completely to the ground. Floodwaters can fill it so that it's no longer livable. Tornado force winds can tear it from its foundation. A house cannot protect us from everything this sinful world delivers. Doesn't it seem like the world is delivering more and more of those things that our houses can't stand up against? Doesn't the world seem eerily close to what the Psalmist says in verse 2? It feels like the earth is giving way doesn't it?

But what moth and rust and wind and rain can destroy is not what keeps us safe. No, the Psalmist tells us clearly that God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. The Lord Almighty is with us, the God of Jacob is our fortress. God is our source of safety and power for living. God provides us with all the protection that we need. No matter where we are or what situation we are in, God is always with us to help us. There is nowhere we can go that God is not present. There is nothing that can destroy God's love for his children.

Therefore, we will not fear! Even though the world seems to be falling apart at the seams, we will not be afraid. Even though war is raging all around us, we will not worry! For God is our impenetrable fortress. Nothing can separate us from his love.