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Prayer meeting address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
Saturday evening 28.4.73

Hymn 275

Reading Psalm 46

This beautiful Psalm has often been read in private and public, and yet it always seems to have a freshness, life, savour, sweetness, and matter for faith to feed and live upon. One point in the Psalm consists in what God is. He is many things, but here He is our refuge and strength in times of trouble, which, as far as we may be favoured to realise it, and experience the truth of it, may allay our emotions, still our fears, remove our mountains, and enable us to put our trust in Him; and it is very sweet to feel it, especially when in trouble, for here it is that God is a present help, not I will help you in a year's time, but a present help in trouble, just when He is needed, and He knows the time better than we do, therefore, says the Psalmist, "will not we fear" whatever may come upon the earth, in this world, or what ever eruptions may come as in verses 2 & 3

Another point in the Psalm is a living stream, "There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High". "God is in the midst of her", that is the river, the holy place, the tabernacles of God; God is in the midst of her, His church, He dwells there. This is a beautiful point. Whatever we may be passing through, the trials, afflictions, bereavements, or other things that may and will come, here is a beautiful point for us, "God is in the midst of her". He understands our trials better than we do, and how to deal with us in them. He can sanctify bereavement, bring His dear people to His feet, favour them to feel His presence, and enable them to cast their care upon Him.

The third point is a timely injunction, "Be still and know that I am God". In one aspect this is a very solemn stillness, when the hand of God is heavy upon us, and there is a revolting feeling against His ways, but actually it is to bring before us a vivid sense of the Majesty of God. We hear Him saying, "Be still" what

ever the trouble is, the pain, grief, sorrow, losses, affliction, or whatever it may be, or however distressing it may be, I am above it all, "Be still and know that I am God". Look to Me, look away from the things that drag you down, and bring much tempest tossing in your spirit, and look up to Me, I am above them all. I understand them and I have appointed them all. Be still; and especially is this beautiful in the experience of the Lord's people when they are favoured to feel it, for this stillness is a leaning upon Him, it is a stillness in the heart, you are casting your care upon Him in an act of faith and confidence in Him, it is falling into His hands. "Be still, and know that I am God".

"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge". So it is the God of Jacob that is our refuge. We read a lot about Jacob, and as we read of him it opens up this truth to us that God was his refuge, and the same God must be your refuge, my refuge, and what a refuge this is as we view it in a Gospel sense. This is a refuge that faith finds in the finished work of the Lord Jesus where it is enabled to shelter in His wounded side and be still. May the Lord help us then under all the changing conditions of this mortal state, as we have to pass through them, and see one and another taken from us. What a precious truth we have here; over it all seems to come just this - "Be still", God is your refuge, He will cause the river to flow, the river of divine love and grace which alone can comfort every sinking heart. May the Lord help us then in a right and gracious way under His dealings in providence, and matters that relate to the church and the nation, to be still and in passing through them, prove that this God is our God and will be our God for ever and ever. Amen.