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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on
Monday evening 5.8.74

Hymns 136, 111
Reading Psalm 46
LIBRARY OF THE
GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTIST

This beautiful Psalm has undoubtedly been a source of comfort and strength to many of the Lord's dear people, especially when they have been in circumstances that may render such a Psalm as this particularly timely.

In the first place there is a refuge, the best refuge that has ever been or will be for any of the Lord's dear people. This refuge is referred to in the book of Deuteronomy, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms". He is a "very present help in trouble". Many have found succour, consolation, quietness of mind, renewed strength when they have been enabled by faith to enter into this refuge.

The second point is a flowing 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". Is not this the river of divine love that flows from the heart of infinite love and grace into the hearts of many of the Lord's people when they have been under circumstances of trouble or affliction? "The streams whereof shall make glad the city of God", that is when the blessings of the Gospel flow in some application into the hearts of the Lord's people, they can turn their sorrow into joy, give them renewed strength, and enable them to go on their way rejoicing.

Another point is a timely exhortation, "Be still and know that I am God". This can have a solemn bearing under God's judgements, but can have a very sweet bearing under a sense of the Lord's protection, care and love to His people as their refuge. What can bring you sweeter comfort, more timely relief, and renewed strength? It can be a beautiful stillness when one is enabled, as some of you may know, to commit your matters into the

hands of your Lord, feel a sweet relief, and entering into that refuge can be still and cast your care upon Him. Is not this the peculiar privilege of the Lord's children, some of you may know this, and have proved Him to be a refuge and strength, and a very present help in trouble, in times of providential trouble or affliction, and other things that come into the path of the Lord's children. There is nothing to prevent access to His glorious Majesty through the Lord Jesus Christ, and we have in the Scripture many confirming statements that God is a prayer hearing and answering God. "Be still and know that I am God", as though the Lord speaking here would say, 'Bring your matters to me, leave them in my hands, and do not try to manage them independently!', "Be still and know that I am God". It can be very sweet. Some of you may have felt this in very disturbing circumstances in your life, and when this is really felt then the Lord makes the crooked straight and the rough places plain, and exalts Himself in the hearts of His people and proves to them that He is a "refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble".

Psalm 1.