

My Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Horatio G. Spafford, was born in North Troy, NY, but was a successful businessman in Chicago and helped serve as an elder in his Presbyterian church. He was close with the evangelist, D. L. Moody.

Spafford invested in a lot of real estate on the shore of Lake Michigan in 1870, but the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 wiped it all out. Just before this, he experienced the death of a son. He needed a break away with his wife and daughters, so he desired to go to the United Kingdom and attend some Moody meetings over there in 1873. In November of that year, due to unexpected last minutes business developments, he had to remain in Chicago, but he sent his wife and four daughters on ahead as scheduled. On November 22 the ship was struck by the *Lochearn*, an English vessel, and sank in twelve minutes. Several days later the survivors were finally landed at Cardiff, Wales, and Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, "Saved alone." Spafford left on a ship to join his wife. While traveling, great peace came to him, and the words of "It is Well with My Soul" were written.

Have you had tragedy quite like this? Even if you have, God's peace is still available for you. Praise the Lord and take His promises as your own.

We love you and are praying for you today.