

My Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 46:7, “The LORD of hosts is with us; / The God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.”

What army would you like to have on your side and completely backing you? The United States? Israel? All of the Nato Forces led by the United States? How about if the danger was not an army or artillery, but it was some health scare? What “army” would you like to have backing you? Cleveland Clinic? John Hopkins? All of Mayo Clinics?

Loved ones, you have Someone far greater. His Name is the LORD (Yehwah). It's His faithful, unchanging, powerful, saving name upon Whom you can rely. But it also says that He is the LORD of “hosts.” What does that mean? Whenever you see that phrase in the Bible, it means “armies.” God Himself is more powerful than any army of men or hospital workers. But He also can bring many people together to fight as an army. That's a lot of power. But it's not only talking about armies of people. You see, there are many occasions in which God turned the opposing forces to fight their own selves (as with Gideon), or to be killed in a plague, or to get scared of another attack and go back. So, God uses even plagues and people's fears against them. Make sure that your fear isn't used against you, loved one. But there are also occasions in which God used the trees to kill many people with a battle in the forest (as with the battle with Absalom) or when God used hornet and bees to chase the enemy away. God has used earthquakes, eclipses, rainstorms, floods and fires to always work for His people's advantage. You see, He's the God Whose army is absolutely everything in the universe, because it is all at His disposal. What a tremendous truth! Our God is truly powerful and able to help.

But all this does no good, if we aren't on His side. I hope that you know Him. If so, then you have Him on your side. It says that “He is with us.” One of Jesus' names is “Emmanuel” (Is 7:14) which means “God is with us.” Loved ones, stop and remember that in the midst of this pandemic. Yes, numbers very well are expected to rise with things opening up. But stop and remember Who your God is, and remember that He is personally with you. God's presence and power is with us.

But He says that He is “The God of Jacob.” He's not just trying to take up a lot of space in saying the same thing. What comes to your mind when you hear “Jacob?” Manipulator? Cheat? Lying? Deceiving? Failing? You would be right with all of those. So, why does God use this Name for us? It's because we all at times have been there with Jacob and failing miserably in walking the Christian life. But God didn't abandon Jacob in spite of Jacob's failings. And He won't abandon you, either, no matter what you've done. This is God's grace that is present and powerful with us.

Lastly, He is our refuge. This word isn't the same as 46:1, but speaks of something that has inaccessible height that can't be reached. God's power, presence, grace and protection can lift us out of fear and the difficulty. Remember it. Praying for you.