

My Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God; / I will be exalted among the nations, / I will be exalted in the earth!."

A Native American Indian was walking with a New York businessman in downtown Manhattan one spring day. The Native man asked the businessman, "Do you hear that?" "Hear what?" replied the businessman. The Native man said, "That cricket?" The businessman said, "There's traffic and people all around, and you say that there is a cricket? No way!" The Native man stooped over, walked toward a particular obscure alley corner, then moved his hand quickly and caught a cricket. Then the Native man took out some loose change from his pocket and threw it on the ground. Instantly, all of the people who were walking stopped, and tried to pick up the coins. The Native man said, "You see, you are especially tuned in to what you are used to listening. You are tuned into business; I am tuned in to nature."

Loved ones, this verse, which should be memorized and meditated upon should remind us that we need to be tuned in to God and His voice. We'll never hear his voice speaking to us through His Holy Spirit using the Word of God in our lives, if we do not make a regular habit of reading His Word and listening for His voice.

We have here a command: "be still." In Hebrew, this word also has the connotation of "cease striving; let go; relax." In the modern language, we can hear someone say "Stop panicking; chill out." Perhaps you would say it "calm down." Every day, we are all face with circumstances that would want to make us respond in pressurized ways of getting upset, experiencing hypertension, getting tense and uptight or even getting fearful. When my children were infants, some of them could work themselves up into a fuss. We adults can "work ourselves up into a fuss, too. God commands us to stop it.

But then the passage says the reason why we should stop striving and working ourselves up into a fuss. It's because we should know that He is God. He is Elohim, the Strong One. He's powerful enough to help. He is wise in all His dealings and loving to choose that wise way for us. And this "knowing" is not just knowing in my head, but it's actually experiencing God in a personal relationship every day, like I know my wife.

Notice that God does His definite working for His people, but also for His enemies. He will be exalted among everyone, and every knee will bow, even the enemies, and all will be silent before Him. Do you really know the Lord? Here is a warning to God's enemies. War and destruction are the results of the curse of sin. God's final victory is sure, though. It's proper to be before Him in silence now in a daily quiet time. Take time each day to be still and to exalt God.

Praying for you today.