

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
www.letjesusleadus.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Classes 9:30 am
Worship 10:30 am
Evening 6:00 pm

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

September 21, 2008

Be still, and know that I am God

by David King

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea. . . . Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth! The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge" (Psa. 46:1-2, 10-11).

A monster hurricane hits a major metropolitan area, inflicting billions of dollars in damage and leaving thousands homeless.

An unprecedented market meltdown wipes out billions of dollars in net worth, and threatens to drag down the entire economy — including **my** retirement investments.

Another election cycle exposes the ugly side of politics, with vicious charges and counter-charges stirring up passions and driving a wedge even deeper into an electorate that is already at war with itself.

Then add your own personal problems to the list — health issues, stacks of unpaid bills, family crises, an endless parade of maintenance headaches on the house and cars, hassles at work . . . and on and on and on.

And remember, this is what life is like for the freest, most prosperous people on earth. Imagine what it must be like for everyone else.

The 46th Psalm was written for times such as these. Its prescription for dealing with the uncertainties and anxieties of life is simple: "Be still, and know that I am God." It's a lesson that we need to be reminded of again and again.

This world and everything in it is the creation of God. While we may not understand all the details of why He runs it the way He does, we can have confidence that He has a purpose behind it all. We are playing out our roles in a vast master plan, one that has a well-defined end. God knows what He is doing, even if we don't. We can trust Him to bring everything to a just and fitting conclusion.

But it's hard to develop that trust when all our attention is riveted on the threats in front of us. Natural disasters seem to argue that God has lost control of His creation. Man-made catastrophes — wars, economic chaos, cultural collapse — overwhelm us with their power to destroy everything that is dear to us. God is so abstract, so distant; our problems are so real and immediate. How can we help not being terrified by the evils that surround us?

It comes down to the mental model of the universe that we choose to adopt: Do we base all our thinking on the premise that God is in control and everything will turn out okay in the end? Or do we view the world as some kind of cosmic runaway freight train that is careening wildly out of control, and disaster is the only foreseeable outcome?

The Psalmist advises the former model. "Be still" — stay calm, don't panic, keep a clear head — and "know that I am God" — fix your faith on God and His plan. Trust Him to work everything out in His own time. "God is our refuge and strength," but only if we choose to make Him so. Otherwise, we're on our own. And **that** is truly frightening.