

1 **RAMPING INTO THANKSGIVING**

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Phil. 4:4-7

2 **REJOICE IN THE LORD... ALWAYS**

Psalm 46

3 **VS. 1**

Elohim – the most common form of 'God' used in the OT

Our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble

Our Rock, our Fortress and Deliverer (Ps. 18:2)

The Stronghold of our lives (Ps. 27:1)

Our Dwelling Place (Ps. 90)

A Strong Tower to which we can run (Prov. 18:10)

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4 **SO WHAT? VSS. 2-3**

Specifically, natural disasters, but metaphorically the times when life seems to pick us up and shake us out. When the foundational things of life are crumbling beneath our feet. When all those things that seem SO rock solid begin to show signs of weakness and begin to collapse (Health, relationships, careers, financial security...)

SO...We will not fear

Why? See vs. 1

5 **CUE THE MUSIC VSS. 4-7**

This song, at the moment that all seems to be breaking loose, changes course. Can you hear the sweet strains?

A banquet table on a battlefield? (Ps. 23)

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

El Elyon - God Most High, Creator and Possessor of heaven and earth – is in His holy place. He is within her...

See also Ps. 2

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6 **VS. 7**

Lord Sabaoth – Lord of Hosts, Commander of Angel Armies
 The Divine Warrior is with us!
 Remember 'Emmanuel?'

God of Jacob – history of faithfulness
 Tell the stories of God's faithfulness. Rehearse His goodness to your children and theirs. (Deut. 6:20ff; Joshua 4)

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7 **VSS. 8-9**

At the end of the day, He's handling it

Consider Isaiah 9:2-7
 A favorite of the Advent season

Recall the Hope!

8 **VS. 10**

A comfort to God's people
 Be still... (Ex. 14:14)
 Again, Matt. 6 "Do not worry..."
 Why? Your Father in heaven

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A warning to God's enemies
 He will be exalted
 See Phil. 2:9-11

9 **REJOICE IN THE LORD...ALWAYS**

"The Lord Almighty
 is with us;
 the God of Jacob
 is our fortress."