

DEVOTIONAL SERIES

BEHOLD THE WORKS OF THE LORD

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If you use the Windows Spotlight feature to update the lock screen or background on your computer, you will be treated to a variety of pictures that include everything from brilliant hummingbirds and serene lakes to fields of colourful vegetation and abstract designs. Mountains are one of my favourite categories, inspiring a sense of grandeur and majesty that words very often fall short to describe. However, the sons of Korah remind us in a word picture in Psalm 46:2-3 that those mountains, despite their greatness, are themselves subject to the forces of nature.

Kyron Newbury, the songwriter of *Behold the Works of the Lord*, evokes that word picture in the first verse of his song. However, in the second verse, I suggest he presents a different picture of might and turmoil when he speaks of “nations rag[ing]” and “kingdoms falter[ing].” Both pictures are a timely reminder that the world of 3,000 years ago was no stranger to chaos and upheaval. Those circumstances are still part of our reality today, maybe in a different way, but still very real. Daily, we wake up to the latest calamity, whether natural or man-made. However, I like what Newbury does in the chorus and throughout the song. Like what the Psalmist tells us in 46:2—“We will not fear”—Newbury says, “He calms our fears.” Indeed, this phrase could possibly be used as a subtitle for the song.

In 46:6, when the Psalmist says that “nations are in uproar” and “kingdoms fall,” phrases that Newbury uses almost verbatim, it makes one wonder whether he had some miraculous sci-fi tool that allowed him to see into the future. But as we see elsewhere in the Psalms, the writings can be quite prophetic.

Newbury not only reminds us that the Lord calms our fears, but he also assures us of God’s strength. Unlike the mountains which fall into the sea, God is our “fortress strong and sure.” Thinking again of Windows Spotlight, you will possibly have seen pictures of castles, especially in Europe, which stand majestically above the surrounding landscapes. Just as these castles are “exalted on the earth,” so is our God. But it doesn’t end there—as Isaiah narrates in 6:1, he sees a vision of God, “high and exalted, seated on a throne” which is arguably in Heaven. The important point to take away is that God is exalted everywhere.

We can behold His works all around us when we see the infinite beauty of His creation, but also in our individual lives when He calms our fears and brings us the blessed assurance that all will be well.

Come, behold the works of the Lord.

He calms our fears,

He calms our fears.

The Lord of hosts, who is with us,

He calms our fears,

He calms our fears.