

A mighty fortress is our God

MARTIN LUTHER (1528)

translated by FREDERIC H. HEDGE (1853)

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper he amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe,
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing,—
Were not the right man on our side,
The man of God's own choosing.
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he,
Lord Sabaoth his name,
From age to age the same,
And he must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The Prince of Darkness grim,—
We tremble not for him,
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers—
No thanks to them—abideth,
The spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill,
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is for ever.

The God of Jacob is our fortress. *Psalm 46:7*

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam. *Psalm 46:1-3*

Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. *1 Peter 5:8*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field. *Genesis 3:1*
The prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. *Ephesians 2:2*

A warrior is not delivered by his great strength. *Psalm 33:16*

Apart from me you can do nothing. *John 15:5*

Her offspring... shall bruise your head. *Genesis 3:15*

He disarmed the rulers and authorities. *Colossians 2:15*

He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread... over all the power of the enemy." *Luke 10:18-19*

The LORD of hosts [LORD Sabaoth] is with us. *Psalm 46:7*

German: "And there is no other God." (*cf. Isaiah 45:21*)

I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. *Matthew 16:18*

We... wrestle... against the spiritual forces of evil. *Ephesians 6:12*

German: "Desire to devour us" (*cf. 1 Peter 5:8*)

The accuser... has been thrown down, ... and they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony. *Revelation 12:10-11*

German: "The prince of this world" (*John 14:30, KJV*)

He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. *1 John 4:4*

The devil has come down to you in great wrath. *Revelation 12:12*

The devil... was thrown into the lake of fire. *Revelation 20:10*

The Word... Jesus Christ. *John 1:1,17*

Christ... far above all rule and authority and power. *Ephesians 1:20-21*

Fan into flame the gift of God... for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. *2 Timothy 1:6-7*

German: "Goods, honour, children, wife" (tr. Carlyle)

Do not fear those who kill the body. *Matthew 10:28*

My words will not pass away. *Matthew 24:35*

Of his kingdom there will be no end. *Luke 1:33, cf. Daniel 4:3*