

# *En la sombra de Chachani pero atropado por Su gloria* (In Chachani's shadow, yet gripped by His glory)

May 2026

## A Year of Faithfulness

In early March, we celebrated one year in Peru. Although life in Arequipa has been vastly different from what we knew in Mongolia, we have seen the Lord at work throughout this past season. As I reflected on all the changes—both the joys and the difficulties—a verse kept repeating in my mind: “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). It is a powerful line that has echoed across the ages, from the day the sons of Korah first penned it until today. Yet it has almost become a cliché—a familiar phrase on bumper stickers and a favorite for comfort and security. But have we really paused to consider why the sons of Korah felt compelled to declare such a truth and commend it to God’s people for worship?

## The weight of the words

“Be still, and know”—to fully understand the weight of those words, we must step back into the world in which they were first proclaimed. Tradition holds that Psalm 46 was written during the reign of Hezekiah, the thirteenth king of Judah, one of the few kings who truly sought the Lord. By his time, the northern kingdom had already fallen, leaving Judah standing alone.

As Hezekiah ascended the throne, he looked out over the kingdom and the people he had inherited. He saw the effects of generations of idolatry and sin, which had reached their peak under his father, Ahaz, who led the nation deeper into spiritual decline than any king before him. Hezekiah had power and status. He could have easily accepted that this was the way a king walked and continued to rule—yet he refused.



He looked past his father and down the line of the kings, searching for a different model to follow—he gazed over three hundred years and finally settled on David, the man after God’s own heart. In David, he found his mentor. Hezekiah then began to lead Judah back to the Lord with unrelenting conviction. He smashed the idols, cut down the Asherah poles, and declared, “We are the people of the Lord, and we will follow Him.” Yet Judah’s return to the Lord did not bring immediate peace.

## Trembling, yet standing: Faith under siege

At the very beginning of Hezekiah’s reign, Judah had witnessed the fall of their brothers in Israel—an event so recent, so close, that many had lived through it or fled from it themselves. This was not ancient history, but a vivid and painful memory. The cost of disobedience and the weight of judgment had been seared into their conscience, as they remembered Moses’ words: obedience would bring blessing, but

choosing to turn away would bring a curse. Thus when their new king sought the Lord and declared, “We will follow,” the expectation of renewal and security was high, but instead the nation found itself once again surrounded by enemies.

For years, the threat of Assyrian domination had loomed over Judah, and in the fourteenth year of Hezekiah’s reign, that threat arrived at Jerusalem’s door. Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, launched a campaign across Judah, capturing city after city until he finally reached Jerusalem itself. Hezekiah attempted to preserve his people by giving an immense tribute, which Sennacherib accepted. Yet he pressed on, driven by his thirst for conquest and intent on bringing Judah into submission and captivity, just as he had done with Israel.

At the city gates, his spokesman declared that no one could stand against Assyria—not even Judah’s God—offering mercy only if they surrendered. When Hezekiah remained silent, a letter followed, repeating the same threat: no god had ever delivered a nation from Assyria’s hand, and that Judah’s God was no different.

Hezekiah grasped the frightening reality that Sennacherib was not simply coming against Jerusalem, but had set himself against the Lord Almighty, exalting his throne above that of the Lord.

In that moment, Hezekiah saw the threat for what it truly was, and he trembled—not because of Sennacherib’s threat, but because of his blasphemy. Realising the battle was never his to win, he humbled himself before his true King and cried out to the Lord to defend His name and display His glory.

As he stood upon the wall, he looked out over the army of Sennacherib spread out below, while his own people trembled within Jerusalem’s fortified walls. Then, bowing his heart before the Lord, he called for the prophets and priests, and together they went up to the temple. There, Hezekiah took the letter and laid it before the altar as he prayed:

“O Lord, God of Israel, You alone are God over all the earth... Will You deliver us, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You alone are God? We are Your people, and we are in Your hands.”

It is in moments such as these—standing on the edge of defeat, yet resting in the sovereignty of God—that the words “Be still, and know” carry their full weight.

## Standing on the walls



Yet, in order to fully grasp the weight of this moment and why Psalm 46 is so significant, we must see how Jewish tradition places the psalm upon the walls of Jerusalem—looking out over the vast army surrounding the city while, within, the people tremble under the threat of destruction.

This psalm was never meant to be a song of comfort or surrender. As the sons of Korah stood within a city under siege, trembling in fear, they refused to cower. Instead, they followed

the example of their king. They bowed before the Lord—and then stood to proclaim their psalm, not as comfort but as testimony, a battle cry that rang through the city: “Be still, and know.”

Though a multitude camped beyond the walls and Hezekiah’s people stood powerless within, Hezekiah chose faith and waited. And the Lord moved to deliver His people and their king.

### The paradox of the charge

Today, the same is so often true of us. As we walk through seasons of chaos and feel powerless, the charge remains: “Be still, and know.” In moments of peace and conflict alike, the charge remains: “Be still, and know.” Yet within the charge lies a paradox, for “be still” was never a command to stop moving.



Paul sees the Christian life as a calling that requires endurance. He describes himself as a runner who presses on toward the goal (Philippians 3:12–14). He urges believers to run in such a way as to win the prize (1 Corinthians 9:24–27). There is effort, discipline, and intentional striving in the Christian life. Yet even here, Paul’s striving is never detached from relationship. He does not run independently for a reward, but as one who runs with Christ. The prize does not replace the relationship; it is pursued through it.

Over the past year, I have been reflecting on this paradox a great deal, and Hezekiah’s example and Paul’s words have been a great encouragement.

### For Him, or with Him?

I thought this was the end of the letter, but as I edited it, I felt the Lord begin to speak, raising a simple question: *are you working for Me, or are you working with Me?*

As I reflected on the words *for* and *with*, I realized they are simple, yet they carry very different weights. The more I considered the question, the more I began to see that *for* reflects the role of an employee working for a reward—are you working for Me? - While *with* captures the idea of partnership, joining the work because we are invested in the One who invited us—are you working with Me?



I want to be working with the Lord, but in truth, I have often simply been working for Him—running hard and doing the work earnestly, but without stillness. Yet I am learning to listen more carefully to the invitation to be still, even while moving.

## Ministry: Running in stillness

In many ways, this past year has been both a season of deep reflection and very real, practical growth. While the theme of “being still” has shaped our hearts, our days have also steadily been filling with opportunities to serve.



Manje carries a full schedule of mentoring sessions throughout the week, meeting with women to read the Word, share life, and pray together. Some of these women are believers, some are curious, and others are seeking friendship but remain hesitant to discuss matters of faith. She also volunteers at a local Christian school, teaching conversational English, and helps co-lead a children’s club each Friday afternoon.

I am working with a fellow missionary in our church to teach a weekly English and Bible class. The program brings together both believers and non-believers, and we have been encouraged to see growing interest and deeper conversations around faith.

We also continue to partner with the church’s outreach team, travelling into the mountains once a month for a weekend to walk alongside local churches and reach out in nearby villages. Since one of us must stay home with the children, we alternate each month. Each of us brings different gifts to the team.

At home, Jirah has started homeschooling, and Micah attends a local preschool. We are both continuing to study Spanish. It can be frustrating at times, but we are encouraged to see steady progress. Living as believers in a foreign country consistently presents opportunities to share Christ in everyday life.

So while it may sometimes seem that we are not doing a great deal, the reality is that life is full—but it is a life shared with Christ. And in that, we are learning to be still even as we continue to run with Him.



We trust that the Lord will continue to lead, sustain, and make Himself known both to you and through you. May you remain still with Him as you continue to run. We want to thank you for walking with us, praying with us, and standing with us. We are deeply grateful.

## Join us before the throne

- Living as a cross-cultural family brings unique challenges as we seek to lead our children to know the Lord. Please pray for Jirah and Micah as they navigate multiple cultures and languages—that they would grow in confidence, joy, and in their relationship with the Lord—and for us as parents, that we would have wisdom and grace in this season.
- We are continuing with language learning. Balancing daily life and classes can be tiring, but the Lord is faithful. Please pray that we would keep our eyes on Him and walk closely with Him.
- We have many opportunities and requests for ministry, and we are asking the Lord for wisdom to discern when to say yes and when to say no.
- Pray with us as we minister and build relationships both in the city and in the mountains, that Christ would be magnified in all we do, and that we would be sensitive to the cultural needs of the people, learning to listen well and meet them where they are with humility.
- We are being given more opportunities to teach and open the Word in different settings, in both Spanish and English. This is a great joy, but also a privilege we approach with a deep sense of awe. Please pray with us that we would continue to participate with Christ in humble submission as we teach.

With deep affection and love  
Benjamin, Manje, Jirah and Micah.

