

PSALM 95

Praise to the LORD, and Warning against Unbelief.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. From Roy H. Enoch (1-24-95).
- B. "Call to Worship and a Warning Against Unbelief."
- C. "Scholars" usually group the six psalms, 95-100 as songs used for Sabbath day worship. Some suggest that they were used for an annual "Enthronement Festival," but since none is mentioned in the Bible, it was not celebrated by God's instruction, but man's tradition.
- D. Notice the following:
 1. Psalms 95 begins with praise for God giving His word to Israel, and ends with the warning that they not harden their hearts as in the wilderness.
 2. Psalms 96 focuses on God's concern for the whole earth, and all nations.
 3. Psalms 97 stresses the knowledge of God as presiding over all creation. "The heavens declare His righteousness and all the peoples see His glory" (95:6).
 4. Psalms 98 sings praise for the salvation being know to all the earth.
 5. Psalms 99 exalts Zion and honors great leaders such as Moses, Aaron and Samuel.
 6. Psalms 100 is a psalm of thanksgiving for the lord's blessings and mercy.
- E. It seems that Psalms 95 should be divided into three parts:
 - I. Introduction (95:1-3).
 - II. Worship the Creator (95:4-7).
 - III. Do Not Harden Your Hearts (95:8-11).

THE TEXT.

95:1 O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD,
Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.
2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
3 For the LORD is a great God
And a great King above all gods,
4 In whose hand are the depths of the earth,
The peaks of the mountains are His also.
5 The sea is His, for it was He who made it,
And His hands formed the dry land.
6 Come, let us worship and bow down,
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
7 For He is our God,
And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
Today, if you would hear His voice,
8 Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,
9 "When your fathers tested Me,
They tried Me, though they had seen My work.
10 "For forty years I loathed *that* generation,
And said they are a people who err in their heart,
And they do not know My ways.
11 "Therefore I swore in My anger,
Truly they shall not enter into My rest."

COMMENTS.

- A. Introduction (v1-3).
[v1] "...let us sing to the Lord...shout joyfully..." Singing and extolling God's praises is the essence of worship.

[v2] “Let us come into His presence...” Although we realize that God is everywhere, we still feel like we are in His presence in a special way when we assemble with others to worship and sing praises.

[v3] “For the Lord is the great God...above all gods.” The God who made men is the opposite to the gods made by men.

B. Worship the Creator (v5-7).

[v4,5] “...the deep places of the earth...the hills are His...the sea...” They are His because He created them. We cannot hide from God.

[v6,7] “...let us worship and bow down...kneel before the Lord our Maker.” We should desire to worship Him as our creator, and be thankful for the privilege of being “...the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.”

C. Do Not Harden Your Hearts (v8-11).

[v8,9] “...as in the rebellion...the day of trial in the wilderness...” God tested their faith with hardship and they tested God’s patience with their murmuring and complaining. They should have trusted Him because “they saw My works.” We should trust Him enough to do whatever He says because we can see His works in His word (Jn. 20:30,31).

[v10] “For forty years I was grieved with that generation...a people who go astray in their hearts...” All going astray is in the heart. See Mt. 15:18-20. God was grieved with them because “they do not know My ways.” They did not know because they did not want to learn, though Moses had taught them the law of God.

[v11] “So I swore in my wrath, they shall not enter My rest.” God is angry when we do not learn His will and when we complain about hardships which should make us stronger and thankful. We do bad things to ourselves when we don’t trust God enough so that we complain and fret. We also bring God’s wrath on us when we don’t trust Him and will also fail to enter into His REST.