

SBC – Feb. 1, 2026
Psalm 95:1-11 (NKJV)
“A Call to Worship”

Psalm 95:7b-11 are quoted verbatim in Hebrews 3:7-11 and Hebrews 4:7 attributes Psalm 95:7-8 to David indicating that David is the author of it. However, some argue that in Hebrews 4:7 when it says “in David” it may simply mean the book of Psalms since so many of the Psalms (at least half) were written by David. I would argue it was probably written by David but we can’t be dogmatic. The Septuagint (LXX) also attributes it to David.

Hebrews 3 and 4 quotes from Psalm 95 five specific times (cf. Heb. 3:7-11, 15; 4:3, 5, 7) making it the most thoroughly cited OT passage in the NT.

Psalm 95 is a call to worship, but connects worship with a saving faith response in contrast to rebellious unbelief. God is to be worshiped in contrast to the rebel response of hard-heartedness.

Slide # 1

Psalm 95

“A Call to Worship”

vv. 1-7a – All Call to Worship

vv. 7b-11 – A Severe Warning to Those Who Reject Worship

Psalm 95 (NKJV)

1 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

Our faith is a “singing” faith, which in the Bible often signifies joyful worship! This singing is to be accompanied with joyful shouting. This is worshipful enthusiasm. I don’t know if us conservative non-charismatics are ever going to get there and one reason is because of the charismatic excess that is anything but true worship. Often it comes off like a big show.

But there is a place for emotions in worship – joyful enthusiasm. Let the Bible speak for itself. And note the emphasis here is not personal worship, but rather corporate worship – “Oh come, let US sing... Let US shout joyful.”

The Rock of our salvation metaphorically presents God as the ONE who has delivered us, in whom we find safety and security. He is the Rock of our salvation (cf. Ps. 18:1-2, 31; 73:26; 92:15; 144:1; Deut. 32:15; 2 Sam. 22:47; Isa. 44:8).

2 Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

In our worship we should always be mindful of God's presence. We are coming before God and we should come thankfully. This assumes He has give us MUCH – which He has. What hasn't He given us? Every good thing we have in time and eternity is from Him.

Slide # 2

James 1:17 (NKJV)

17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

Thus, the writer calls for a joyful response – joyful shouting in the form of Psalms. This suggest we quote the Psalms with vigor! I have often heard people quote Scripture – but sometimes in sort of a mundane way. The writer here calls for enthusiastic vigor! Why don't some of you memorize a Psalm or portions of it, and in our sharing time, share it with vigor! That is a wonderful way to worship!

3 For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.

Lord here is YHWH! YHWH is a great God. God here is the Hebrew "El" meaning the Omnipotent One or the Supreme Being.

He is the great King above all gods – which is to say above all other supposed gods.

Mentioning these gods (idols) does not acknowledge their reality. It is a statement of God's sovereignty and superiority over every force, real and imagined. – ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

Properly recognizing the GREATNESS of God leads to the worship of Him. Holding Him in awe is essential to proper worship.

4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also.

5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land.

God has mastery over the whole of creation. From the lowest valleys to the highest mountains, to the deepest sea, all are the creation of God that He sovereignly controls and governs. All of creation testifies to the greatness of the Creator!

The only proper response is to worship!

6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

The basic meaning of worship is to bow down. It emphasizes humility and giving homage to God. In adding “**bow down**,” intensity is given through repetition! The sense here is one of submission before the greatness of God our Maker.

In the Scripture, when something is stated three times, it is making a superlative emphasis. For example in Isaiah 6:3 when it says, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts” it is saying it the strongest terms possible.

And so we have this triple, superlative emphasis here regarding worship.

Slide # 3

- Worship
- Bow down
- Kneel

We don't bow in worship before any other person, no other saint, no pope, no crucifix, no statute, no god of bread. Only God! Only He is our Maker! Only He is worthy of worship!

In the Bible there are TWO great emphases in worship. In Revelation 4 the emphasis is on worshipping God as Creator.

Slide # 4

Revelation 4:11 (NKJV)

**11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”**

In Revelation 5 the emphasis is on worshipping God in light of redemption.

Slide # 5**Revelation 5:12 (NKJV)**

12 saying with a loud voice: “**Worthy is the Lamb** who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

These are two great focal points of worship in heaven, namely God as Creator and God as redeemer. The emphasis here in Psalm 95 is on God as Creator and Shepherd.

7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.

If you need proof that chapter and verse divisions in the Bible were not inspired, here it is. The thought of verse 7 ends with “the sheep of His hand.” A whole new thought picks up right in the middle of the verse with “Today, if you will hear His voice”. But alas, we are thankful for chapter and verse divisions, which greatly aid us in finding our way around in the Bible quickly.

Otherwise, when we say “in David,” we might be searching through the whole of the 150 Psalms, as we noted in the introduction.

But note the writer says here that God is our God. It is personal! It’s not just theoretical, but actual. He is the God of His people, and they are His people. There is a very special God-people relationship in view.

Slide # 6**Zechariah 13:9 (NKJV)**

9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, **‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’** ”

The people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand emphasizes God’s shepherding care. He guides, protects, and provides for His people. His care is specific, intimate, and consistent (cf. Num. 4:28; 31:49; Jud. 9:29).

In His hand are the deep places (v. 4) and at the same time we are “the sheep of His hand” (v. 7). His sovereign care is over all creation and over all of His people.

The OT imagery of God as the Shepherd of Israel was applied by Jesus to Himself (Jn. 10:11-17, 26-30) in one of the few passages where He explicitly affirmed His co-equality with God the Father.

– ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

In the middle of verse 7 there is a sudden break. It goes from emphasizing worship to a strong warning concerning those who are not true worshipers.

Psalm 95:7 b-11 is quoted verbatim in Hebrews 3:7-11, which is one of the WARNING passages in Hebrews (see 3:7-4:2), and specifically it is a WARNING against UNBELIEF that has stopped short of true faith. The writer of Hebrews takes this section in Psalm 95 and applies it as a warning against apostasy that stops short of true faith.

Today, if you will hear His voice: denotes an urgency that requires an immediate response!

This is the uniform time and tense of the Holy Spirit's exhortations. He saith nothing about tomorrow, except to forbid our boasting of it, since we know not what a day shall bring forth. All his instructions are set to the time and tune of 'Today, today, today.'" -***Charles Spurgeon***

To "hear" includes the idea of obeying. It is to hear what God says and respond by obeying. This is where the obedience of faith comes in that Paul refers to in Romans 1:5; 6:17; 15:18, and 16:26.

The whole issue in Hebrew 3:7-4:2 that interacts intimately with Psalm 95 is the issue of saving faith.

Slide 7

Hebrews 4:1–3 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.

2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, **not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.**

3 For we who have **believed do enter that rest**, as He has said: "So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest,' " although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

8 “Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

The word translated here as “rebellion” is literally the Hebrew word “Meribah” and the word “trial” is literally the Hebrew word “Massah”.

Slide # 8

Exodus 17:7 (NKJV)

7 So he called the name of the place **Massah and Meribah**, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Meribah = contention/controversy

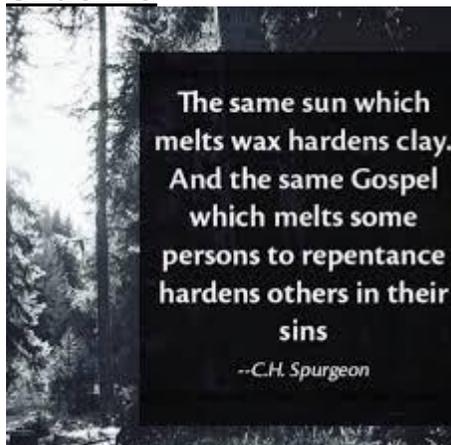
Massah = test

The words “Meribah and Massah ” refer to the place at Rephidim where the people had a problem with God and exhibited a spirit of challenging/testing Him (cf. Ex. 17:2-7; Num. 20:13; Deut. 6:16; Ps. 81:7). But the point is this spirit characterized their experience in the wilderness generally as the people refused to believe God (cf. Num. 13:30-14:10).

These people had a HEART problem – a hardness of heart problem. When confronted with the truth of God, a person is forced with a choice: Will they submit to the truth of it, or will they harden in rebellion? These people back here hardened themselves in rebellion.

To not hear is to harden and to harden is to refuse to obey.

Slide # 9



The appeal **do not harden your hearts** means there is some aspect of the will involved when it comes to the hardness (or softness) of heart. Many regard a hard or soft heart as something that just *happens* to someone and is beyond his ability to control. Here the Holy Spirit indicates differently. – **David Guzik**

9 When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.

The forefathers back in the wilderness challenged God whether He was really willing and able to help them or not. It is a terrible sin to test/challenge God. I always want to start with the presupposition that God is right no matter what – no matter whether I get it or not.

But here is the deal. These people had no excuse. They had all the evidence they needed. God had shown them His works in the Exodus and then in supernaturally caring for them in the wilderness.

Slide # 10

Numbers 14:11 (NKJV)

11 Then the LORD said to Moses: “How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they **not believe Me**, with **all the signs** which I have performed among them?”

Numbers 14:22–23 (NKJV)

22 because all these men who have **seen My glory and the signs** which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these **ten times**, and have not heeded My voice,

23 they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it.

Instead of being true worshippers who appreciated God for His greatness, they were hard-hearted, refusing to believe in God, constantly questioning and challenging Him.

10 For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, ‘It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.’

Their entire time in the wilderness (forty years) was a time of grieving God. He is patient. They consistently went astray in their hearts. Note in both verse 8 and 10 it is brought out that this was fundamentally a HEART problem.

“Heart” in the Old Testament, (*leb* or *lebab*) represents the center of a person's inner life, involving the mind, will, emotions, and intentions. The heart is the control center of a person's spiritual life, involving their thoughts and moral choices. It is the core of a person's spiritual life.

To harden the heart is a moral choice to not listen to God, thus going astray. And in going astray, they proved that they did not know God's ways.

God's ways are GOOD! He is a Good Shepherd. He works all things together for good in the lives of His people. But these people, not knowing God's ways, did not believe it!

To know God and His ways is to TRUST Him! These with a hardened heart refused to TRUST Him. They did not consider God trustworthy!

Consequently...

11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' ”

Their refusal to trust God was such an insult to God that He swore in His wrath that none of them (Joshua and Caleb excepted) would enter into His rest.

In the OT context, God's rest was equated with the Promised Land. Thus, they were not permitted to enter into the land (cf. Ex. 33:14; Deut. 12:9, 10; Josh. 1:13, 15).

As we move to the NT, the writer of Hebrews broadens the application to the REST of SALVATION (cf. Matt. 11:28-30). Those who refuse to believe cannot enter into the REST of a right relationship with God.

There is no REST for those outside of Christ.

Note how Psalm 95 connects the issues of true worship in contrast to rebellious unbelief.

The first act of true worship is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. In an evangelistic context, Jesus said to the woman at the well...

Slide # 11

John 4:23 (NKJV)

23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for **the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**

This is what the Father is looking for – true worshipers. This is exactly what those with a hardened heart are not – they are not true worshipers. And as noted they have a fundamental HEART problem.

Slide # 12

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV)

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe in your heart** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For **with the heart** one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

As far back as I can remember, I believed in God and Jesus, but I wasn't saved until age 21. After I was truly converted, I was reading through the Bible (something I had never really done before), and when I came to Romans 10, I saw clearly that this had been my problem.

I had never before truly believed with the HEART. Prior to that, it was just head knowledge. When I made a true heart commitment, everything changed, and in that reality, I became a true worshiper!

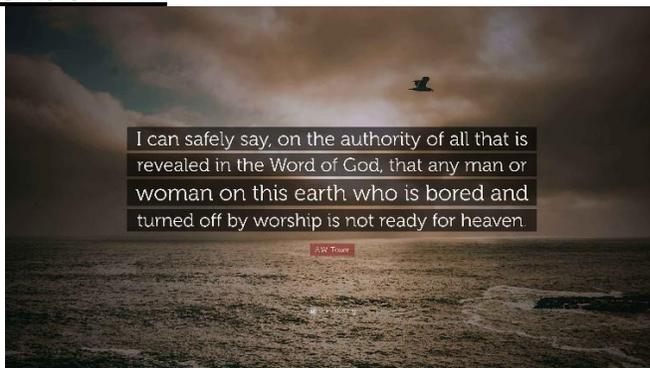
Paul, in sharing his testimony, emphasizes that those in a true covenant relationship with God are true worshipers.

Slide # 13

Philippians 3:3 (NKJV)

3 For we are the circumcision, who **worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus,** and have **no confidence in the flesh,**

Slide # 14



God help us to be among the TRUE worshipers!