

PSALM 95 – AN INVITATION AND A WARNING

Introduction

- 1) **Psalm 95** – “Oh come, let us sing...” (v. 1); “Do not harden your hearts...” (v. 8)
- 2) According to Hebrews 4:7, God was speaking through David in this psalm
- 3) In the space of only a few verses, David gives both an impassioned invitation to worship God and a strong warning to not harden the heart
- 4) God’s revelation is filled with many exhortations to obedience that are closely coupled with warnings against disobedience – faithful Bible preaching today will do the same

I) An Invitation to Praise (vv. 1-7a)

- A) A call to assemble to sing, shout joyfully, give thanks, shout joyfully with psalms (vv. 1-2)
 - 1) The LORD is worthy of great and joyful praise (Psa. 122:1; Heb. 13:15; Jas. 5:13)
 - 2) Yahweh = the Rock of our salvation
- B) LORD is worthy of praise (vv. 3-5)
 - 1) The great God, the great King above all gods
 - 2) Has the whole world in His hands – deep places, height of hills, sea, and dry land
 - a) The Creator and Sustainer of our lives and earthly home
- C) An invitation to worship the LORD God (vv. 6-7a)
 - 1) A humble reverent attitude of heart – bow down, kneel
 - 2) An obvious response by God’s people, the “sheep of His hand” [under His care]
 - a) God is the Shepherd of His people (Ezek. 34:11, 15, 23-24, 31; Jn. 10:14, 27)
- D) Compare Psalm 100:1-3 to these verses

II) A Warning About Rebellion (vv. 7b-11)

- A) “Today” – any day when we are hearing and obeying God’s will (v. 7b)
 - 1) Demonstrates the continuing relevance of the word of God in the past and present
- B) Warning – “Do not harden your hearts” (vv. 8-9)
 - 1) Hardening of the heart will lead to rebellion against God (Ex. 8:15; Jer. 18:12; Eph. 4:18)
 - 2) Example of hardening – “in the rebellion” and “in the day of trial in the wilderness”
 - a) “Rebellion” = *Meribah*; “Trial” = *Massah* (Ex. 17:1-7; Num. 20:13)
 - 3) Israel tested/proved God, even though they had seen His power and grace
- C) God grieved [disgusted] with that generation in the wilderness (vv. 10-11)
 - 1) God noted that they go “astray in their hearts” and “do not know My ways”
 - 2) God swore that they would not enter His rest [promised land] (Num. 14:28ff; Deut. 1:34-35)

III) A Continuous Warning (Hebrews 3:7-4:11)

- A) Warning of Psalm 95:7b-11 quoted here as from the Holy Spirit – divine inspiration (3:7-11)
 - 1) Application made to the Hebrew brethren and us – “Today” (3:12-13)
 - 2) Must both “beware” of unbelief and “exhort” to holding our faith steadfast
- B) This is a warning against unbelief as illustrated from the wilderness wanderings (3:14-15)
 - 1) That generation died in the wilderness and did not enter God’s rest due to unbelief (3:16-19)
- C) Since a promise now remains of entering God’s rest [eternal life], we must be diligent to be faithful and not to “fall after the same example of disobedience” (4:1-11, esp. vv. 9, 11)

Conclusion

While we rejoice in praising God, let us also pay close attention to the ever-present danger of departing from God in unbelief. Let us strive with all diligence to enter God’s eternal rest!