

PSALM 95

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work. For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways." Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest" (Psalm 95).

1. Verses 1, 2, and 6 call us to sing, to be in his presence and to worship/bow down (notice also that Psalm 96, 98, and 100 begin the same way) Why do we have to be commanded to sing and worship? Why don't we just do it without being told?
2. Verse 3 and 7 begin with the word "for," and go on to articulate reasons for worshipping Yahweh. Which one strikes you personally as a reason for worship?
3. Verse 11 says "they shall not enter my rest," a phrase expounded upon greatly in Hebrews 3-4. What does it mean to enter into God's "Sabbath" rest today? In other words, what do you do for rest in your life, and how does this Psalm affirm or challenge your rest?
4. Verse 8 calls us to not harden our hearts. What hardness exists in your heart toward the Lord today? According to this Psalm, how can that hardness of heart change? And when?