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Psalm 95

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



**Learn the
Bible
at Home**

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 95.

Topics.

- Sing praise to the great God, and great King above all gods.
- For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods.
- Today, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, and Massah.
- The wilderness generation went astray in their heart.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FOUR (PSALM 90-106)

PSALM 95:1-2

1

Sing Praise to the Great God, and Great King above all Gods.

- **Psalm 95:1-2:** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! ²Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

The Psalmist calls all Israel to praise the LORD with joyful songs, the words, "Let us sing to the LORD and make a joyful noise," is a common expression throughout the Old Testament Scriptures (especially the Psalms) which shows that not all worship services were solemn, formal, ceremonial and sombre, yet there are churches today in which all services are strictly held to this type of service. To deny joy in worship is to deny one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (i.e., love, joy and peace) and is certainly not following the pattern of worship of the faithful of the Old Testament and is also denying those seeking God and those united to him of the uplifting Spirit of God's joy when the faithful gather together in one Spirit to express their heartfelt praise toward God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ for his great sacrifice. Certainly, there are times for solemn and sombre reflection in worship, but there is also times for rejoicing and joy, and all things (sombre or joy) are to be done with respect, in order and with reverence. The words, "Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation," is the natural cry of the heart of the faithful of all generations of both the Old Testament and the New Testament. For those who know the love of Christ and understand the abundant grace of God, uniting as one family in Christ to worship their Saviour and King and sing songs of praise together is one of their greatest joys.

PSALM 95:3-5

For the LORD is a Great God, a Great King above all Gods.

- **Psalm 95:3-5:** For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods. ⁴In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also. ⁵The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Here we are told that the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods which implies that there are other gods, yet the Bible clearly teaches that there is only one true God so who are these other gods? These other gods are gods that are created by the imagination in the mind by a strong belief in them. The human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore automatically responds to whatever is pictured on the imagination whether it is real or false. The stronger the belief the greater effect the mental image on the imagination of the mind will have on the human nervous system. This is why deception is so deceptive. It matters not if the god people believe in is real or not the nervous system responds accordingly. If the god a person believes in is a wrathful, vengeful and judgmental god they will feel emotions of guilt and fear in contrast to this if the god a person believes in is a god of love and compassion, they will feel emotions of love and comfort. This is why faith should be based upon the Scriptures of the Bible and never upon emotions. This does not mean emotions should be denied, God gave them to us to enjoy (especially in worship and praise) it just means that they should not be the foundation of our faith and what we believe. It is through reading the Bible that we learn who the one and only immortal, invisible, eternal God is and His eternal will, plans and purposes for the world, the earth and for eternity. For further information see:

- Demons in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Clearly not one of these gods of the imagination have any power to create the earth, the mountains the seas there is only one God who has such awesome power and He is the invisible, immortal, Holy Almighty God of all creation and the source of all life the great I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

PSALM 95:6-9

Today, do Not Harden your Hearts, as at Meribah, and Massah.

- **Psalm 95:6-9:** Oh come, let us (Israel) worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! ⁷For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today, if you hear his voice, ⁸do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, ⁹when your fathers put me to the test and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.

Here is the time for solemn and sombre reflection in worship, Israel had grossly sinned against the LORD their God, clearly joyful praise and worship at this time instead of being a joy to God would be an offense, since the right response from Israel would be heartfelt repentance and sorrow for their rebellion and lack of trust in God to provide for them.

NOTICE: how the writer changes the tone at verse nine from himself speaking to God speaking. This is commonly seen in the Scriptures especially in the Psalms and with the prophets, because they are being inspired by God's Spirit and speaking as His voice so it is natural for the language to change back and forward from them speaking to God speaking

Massah and Meribah (Exodus 17:1-7) Moses was told to smite the rock at Rephidim, not long after they'd crossed the Red Sea before they'd reached Mount Sinai (Num. 33:15). Meribah comes from the Hebrew word (*M^eriybah*) and means quarrel, provocation and strife. Massah comes from the Hebrew word (*Maccah*) it means to be tested or tempted by a trial or hardship of God and in this context carries the idea of complaining against God because of a trial or hardship.

Not long after Israel had crossed the Red Sea and before they'd reached Mount Sinai (Num. 33:15) they camped at Rephidim in the wilderness. There was no water for the people to drink, so they quarrelled with Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us with thirst? Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" Then Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people they are almost ready to stone me."

The LORD said He would stand on the rock at Horeb (Mount Sinai), and told Moses to take the staff that he struck the Nile with and strike the rock and water will flow out, Moses struck the rock in the sight of the elders of Israel and water flowed out, he named the place Massah meaning tempting and Meribah because of the striving of the children of Israel and because they tempted God. Israel tested God by saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?" They had seen the mighty and awesome miracles and extraordinary wonders of the LORD and should have had faith that He would provide. (Exodus 17:1-7).

Forty years later we read of a similar story: Moses is told to speak to the rock at Kadesh just before Aaron dies (Num. 20:22) Aaron death is recorded in (Num. 20:22-29) (Num. 33:36-39). The people committed the same sin once again, when they thirsted. They grumbled against Moses saying, "Why, have you brought us into this wilderness, that we should die here?" This time the LORD commanded Moses to speak to the rock to show His glory to the people, but Moses struck the rock instead of speaking to it, nevertheless water flowed out, but Moses and Aaron were forbidden to enter the Promised Land. (Num. 20:1-13).

Since the smiting of the rock happened before the covenant was established at Sinai some say that it symbolized Christ being smitten to establish the new covenant. While the speaking to the rock at the end of the forty years wanderings was to represent Christ's return to redeem the world, but Moses ruined the intended symbolism by smiting the rock. After having said this it should be highlighted that Moses was not punished for ruining a symbolism, but for striking the rock instead of speaking to it.

PSALM 95:10-11

The Wilderness Generation went Astray in their Heart.

- **Psalm 95:10-11:** 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." ¹¹Therefore I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest."

The thing that should be highlighted in these verses is God's words, "They are a people who go astray in their heart." These words of God shine a spotlight on the truth that even in the Old Testament God valued and treasured what was in the heart of those who confessed to follow Him. It shows that it mattered not how perfectly they adhered to the Levitical Law and ceremonial rites, holy days and religious customs and traditions if their heart was not involved God placed no value upon their worship.

It could be likened today to men and women who have some belief of God strictly attending church every Sunday and taking communion and singing songs of praise and worship, but for every other day of the week give God no thought and go about living their life as they please without considering how it reflects upon God's honour and the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Before God it matters not how strictly they have adhered to attending church services and sung songs of praise and worship it will all count for nothing since what they are doing outwardly is not true to what is in their heart.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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