

Psalm 95ⁱⁱⁱ Holding the Future, Remembering the Past.

¹Come, let us sing to the LORD; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

²Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

³For the LORD is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

⁴In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

⁵The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

⁶Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and 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. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

⁸Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, *

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.

⁹They put me to the test, *

though they had seen my works.

¹⁰Forty years long I detested that generation and said, *

“This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways.”

¹¹So I swore in my wrath, *

“They shall not enter into my rest.”

ⁱⁱⁱ **About the Psalm: Psalm 95**

This psalm, like Psalm 81, outlines a liturgy celebrating God's kingship. It was probably used at the great autumnal New Year's festival. The first section (vv. 1-7a) is a processional hymn in two parts. One part is sung in the temple court, praising God as Creator (vv. 1-5), and the other marks the entry into the sanctuary, praising God as Lord of the covenant people.

In the second section of the psalm (vv. 7b-11), the people are cautioned against repeating the disobedience and faithlessness of their fathers (Exodus 17:7; Numbers 14:33). The "rest" that the exodus generation forfeited was the promised-land (Deuteronomy 12:9). For every generation, rest is the opportunity of entrance into God's favor (Hebrews 3:7ff).