

Study and Discussion Guide for *Psalm 95*

A Hymn Of Praise To God As King Over All With A Warning To Submit To Him

The Structure of *Psalm 95*

- 1-5 A call to praise the Lord as King of all the earth
 - 1-2 The call to praise
 - 3-5 Reasons for praise
 - 3 God is King over all the other gods
 - 4-5 God is King over all the world
- 6-11 A call to acknowledge the Lord as King of his people
 - 6-7 The call to submit to the Lord by kneeling before him
 - 8-11 The warning against not submitting your hearts to him
 - 8-9 As you rebelled at Massah and Meribah
 - 10-11 As you rebelled before “the forty years”

Some Questions for Listening, Meditating, and Discussing

1. God is often called a rock. Think of as many different ways you can think of that God is like a rock. Who he is; what he does; how he makes us feel. If you run out of ideas, check some cross-references on the word *rock*.
2. The phrase *King above all gods* does not have as much punch for us as it did for the original singers of this Psalm. Each nation, even each family back then, had its own god. There were different gods for each geographical area. There were gods for the different cosmic regions (heaven, earth, netherworld) and for the different aspects of life (war, crafts, fertility, weather). Can you name some of the other gods in the Old Testament? How would you apply that phrase in our culture? What is God the King of that most people do not see?
3. In your understanding, why did the Psalmist pick the four specific parts of his world that he names in verses 4 and 5? What four things would you (with your picture of the universe) pick to make the same point?
4. Can you think of more than one way that God is our *Maker*? Three ways or four ways?
5. If God has a *pasture*, what does that make him? How do you feel when you think of that picture of God?
6. Notice the change in pronouns for God in verses 8-11. How do you feel about God when you hear him making that “oath”?
7. What did the Israelites do at Rephidim (*Massah & Meribah*, Ex 17:3-7) that was so bad? It seems no different from what they did at Marah (Ex 15:23-25) or at the Wilderness of Sin (Ex 16:1-12). Yet *Massah & Meribah* lives in infamy: (Dt 6:16; 33:8; Ps 106.32; Mt 4:5-7). Why? Which of the Ten Commandments was disobeyed at Massah & Meribah? Notice also that there are right and wrong ways to ask questions of God: (1 Sa 14:36f; 23:6f; Ju 6:36f)
8. What does it mean to “enter my rest” (verse 11). Have you entered God’s rest?