

# HEBREWS 3:7-11 — QUOTE PSALM 95

## Psalm 95:7-11, Enthronement Psalm

<sup>7</sup>For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: <sup>8</sup>Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, <sup>9</sup>When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. <sup>10</sup>For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.' <sup>11</sup>So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

(Psalm 95:7-11)

## Hebrews 3:7-15, Exhortation

<sup>7</sup>Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "TODAY, IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, <sup>8</sup>DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS AS IN THE REBELLION, IN THE DAY OF TRIAL IN THE WILDERNESS, <sup>9</sup>WHERE YOUR FATHERS TESTED ME, TRIED ME, AND SAW MY WORKS FORTY YEARS. <sup>10</sup>THEREFORE I WAS ANGRY WITH THAT GENERATION, AND SAID, 'THEY ALWAYS GO ASTRAY IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN MY WAYS.' <sup>11</sup>SO I SWORE IN MY WRATH, 'THEY SHALL NOT ENTER MY REST.'" (Hebrews 3:7-11)

### PSALM 95 BACKGROUND

Psalm 95 is part of the collection known as the *Enthronement Psalms* (**Ps.24; 47:1-9; 93:1-5; 95-100**). They are similar to the *Royal Psalms*, but are more specific in their content. They exalt God as King emphasizing His rule over both man and Creation. Many scholars believe this collection was read at the Temple in Jerusalem during the New Year festival to celebrate God's coming enthronement.

Psalm 95 calls the people to acknowledge that the Lord is a greater King above all the so-called gods. The Psalmist called the congregation to worship their Creator, but then warns them against unbelief as in the days of the wilderness wanderings where their fathers did not experience God's rest. It appears that during the Psalmist era they had recently experienced a deliverance, thus the call to worship.

### HEBREWS USE OF PSALM 95 BULLET POINTS

- The warning in Hebrews, as it quotes Psalm 95, is the failure of Israel to enter God's rest due to unbelief.
- The writer of Hebrews uses the occasion of Psalm 95 to make a similar point that the original Psalm made. Namely, that God is greater than the regional gods, but here that the Son is greater than Judaism, and they should not go back to it.
- There is a "rest" available for the readers of Psalm 95. This rest refers to a different rest from the land of Promise, because they were already dwelling in the land, and yet "rest" is still offered.
- The Psalmist warns the people of his day concerning the failure of their fathers to enter Canaan.
- The incidents underlying Psalm 95 is that neither the first generation, nor Moses himself, entered the rest God had for them in Canaan.
- The Psalmist said, "Today" showing that the offer made to the first generation was still open for them. Continuing that thought, whatever was "today" in Psalm 95 is still "today" for us as well. Otherwise why quote it if it has no application for us.
- The author of Hebrews wants his readers to understand that there is still a rest available to his readers.