

A Call to Worship and Thanksgiving
Psalm 95:1-7

INTRO:

When we were out East, our services were much more formal than they are here. We had an order of service that began with a song of assembly and then the announcements, then we had a call to worship to mark when we began to focus on the Lord. Often our call to worship came from this Psalm of thanksgiving and praise.

There are actually two calls for God's people to worship Him. First, in verses 1-2 we are called to worship loudly and joyously. Then in verses 6-7 we are called to worship Him humbly, and carefully. Our road map will vary a little from this. First, we will hear the call to worship in verses 1-2. Second, we will consider why we should praise God in verse 3-7.

I. A Call to Worship (v. 1-2)

II. Why We Should Worship (v. 3-7)

I. A Call to Worship (v. 1-2)

A. Psalm 95 opens with a loud call to worship. (vs.1-2)

“Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.”

The verbs are vigorous and loud. Sometimes when we worship God it is not wrong to become loud and exuberant.

B. The worship is to include singing, shouting joyfully, thanksgiving, and praise. Each of these words indicate that the worship is to be loud and boisterous. The sing is loud shouting to God. Shouting joyfully means exactly what it says, Thanksgiving is the content of our shouts and songs. The last word is used of the Psalms in the Old Testament, but it can also mean praise. Praise is reminding ourselves about who our God is and what He is like.

C. Why do we need to praise God? There are several reasons. Let me cite two.

1. We need to praise God, reciting His promises and attributes to remind us who it is whom we are worshipping. For example we need to remind ourselves often of such truths as: **(Ephesians 3:20–21 (NASB95))**

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.”

2. (I am indebted to C. S. Lewis for this observation) we praise and glorify God because one way we enjoy Him is to remind ourselves of His perfections. When we love someone we tend to tell others and that person about how wonderful he or she is. Part

of our enjoyment of that person is to recite their glories. We must not fail to do that with God.

II. Why We Should Worship (v. 3-7)

A. The Psalmist now tells us why we should worship. First, we should worship God because He is a great God. (v.3)

“For the LORD is the great God, And the great King above all gods.”

All other gods do not really exist. They are the local man-made gods of the nations. Our God exist and reigns supreme over all. There is none like Him. No one can be compared to Him.

B. We must worship because of all that He made and controls (vs.4-5).

“In His hand are the deep places of the earth. The heights of the hills are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land.”

He is the God who created and controls all the earth. He made the parts of the earth that no one had been to in that time. The oceans and seas, the unconquered mountains, the dry land we live on, all these have been created by God. There is no where He is not. There is nothing made that He did not create. I think of the prayer in **Acts 4:24**;

“O Lord, it is You who made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and all that is in them.”

The God who made them also sustains them and governs them. **Psalm 24:1** reminds us;

“The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.”

C. We worship Him because we have a personal relationship with Him (v. 6-7).

“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.”

1. We discover here that praise and thanksgiving can be loud, it can also be somber. There are three words here which describe the posture of the body, but speak of the attitude of the heart. The three words are: worship (prostrate ourselves), and bow down, and kneel. Our hearts must not exalt itself of its will against God. Worship is humility.

2. Why must we worship like this? We worship Him not just because our God is great and the creator and sovereign over all, we must also worship Him because He has made us. We are who we are and what we are because He designed each of us. As David reminded us in **Psalm 139:14**;

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.”

Do you thank God and worship God because you are not an accident of nation, but a personal creation of the Living God?

3. We also worship and thank Him because we are His. (**Psalm 95:7**)

“For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, and the sheep of His hand.”

We are His people we have a personal and covenant relationship with Him. The picture is important. He is our shepherd. A shepherd cares for His sheep.

Two verses come to mind. **John 10:14-15;**

“I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own. As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

Isaiah 40:10-11

“Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.”

We do not deserve to be treated like this, but God so loves us who are His that He commits Himself to care for us.

So, let us do what this Psalm tells us to do. Worship, praise Him loudly and let us humble ourselves in worship also.