

## Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 95

1/25/13

Vs. 1-7a describe the God Whom we should serve;  
Vs. 7b-11 emphasize that He means business!

When **Psalm 95:7-11** is quoted in [Hebrews 3:7-11](#), the author is "the Holy Spirit" who wrote through David ([Hebrews 4:7-8](#)). The Holy Spirit inspired the writing of all Scripture ([1 Peter 1:10-12](#); [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#)) by revealing the message ([Galatians 1:11-12](#)), controlling the words to be used ([Acts 2:1-4](#)), then guiding the pen on the page ([Luke 24:44-49](#); [Revelation 1:3](#)).

Hence, whether it was a Prophet, Apostle, or Christians copying Apostolic letters ([Colossians 4:16](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:27](#)), it came from "the Holy Spirit." He completed His work, for we are "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" ([Jude 3](#)). Psalm 95 teaches "The Lesson of the 40-year Israelite Wilderness Wandering" (noted in the Book of [Numbers](#)). This is a must-read for the churches of Christ ([1 Corinthians 10:1-12](#); [Hebrews 3:1-19](#)).

**Verses 1-7a:** This is a call to worship God, because worshipping God helps to drive away unbelief. This is why the Devil discourages attending worship services with statements like: "This is boring;" "You're just as much a Christian as church-goers;" "You don't believe in 'corporate religion;" "Only hypocrites attend church;" "Worshipping God is a waste of time when you have more important things to do," *ad nauseum*. If you have accepted any of these for yourself, you better read on! The call is for "us" to "come before His presence," not the other way around!

We come to Him to:

- "Sing," "shout joyfully" (**verse 1**),
- Offer "thanksgiving," "shout joyfully to Him with psalms" (**verse 2**). In the churches of Christ, Psalms are to be sung, not played ([Ephesians 5:19](#); [James 5:13](#)).

The Bible God is "the great God," "the great King," "above all gods" (**verse 3**). There is no other ([Deuteronomy 4:39](#); [1 Corinthians 8:4](#)). He, alone, owns the Earth by right of Creation (**verse 4-5**; [Genesis 1:1](#); [Isaiah 40:18-26](#); [Colossians 1:12-20](#)). "Worship and bow down," "kneel" are physical postures that signify humility of heart (**verse 6**), for "God" is over us, who are like "sheep" in "His pasture" (**verse 7a**; [Psalm 23:1-3](#); [100:3](#)).



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**Verses 7b-11:** The Israelites have always been “a rebellious people” ([Deuteronomy 32:19-39](#); [Psalm 78:8](#); [Isaiah 40:9-17](#)). God lead them out of Egyptian bondage but they complained about food ([Exodus 16:1-36](#)), they complained about water ([Exodus 17:1-7](#)), while He was giving them His Law they worshipped idols ([Exodus 32:1-14](#)), then they refused to enter the Promised Land ([Numbers 13:1-14:38](#))!

When Jesus was tempted of the Devil, He quoted [Deuteronomy 6:16](#), which placed hard-hearted Israelites on the same side as the Devil: “It is written again, ‘You shall not tempt the LORD your God’” ([Matthew 4:7](#)). “Today” (**Psalm 95:7b**) is the time to “hear His voice” ([Hebrews 3:12-15](#)) before our heart is hardened (**verse 8**) like those Israelites (**verse 9**), who grieved God 40 years with willful ignorance of His “ways” (**verse 10**), prompting Him to swear “in His wrath” (**verse 11**; [Hebrews 3:10-11](#)) they would not enter the Land they had refused ([Numbers 14:26-35](#)). God has said who will be saved in Heaven; all others will be lost ([Matthew 7:21-27](#); [Mark 16:15-16](#); [Romans 1:16-32](#); [1 Corinthians 5:9-13](#); [1 Corinthians 6:9-11](#); [Galatians 5:19-21](#)).

**Thought:** Those who refuse to learn from the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. That physical destruction in the Wilderness is a lesson that can keep souls from the Hell of eternity. Did they die in vain?

