

The Psalms  
(Lesson 12)

Introduction:

1. In this lesson we are concentrating on information to be learned from Psalm 95.
2. In this Psalm, God's people are exhorted to do 2 things.
  - a. First, God's people are to praise Him.
  - b. Second, God's people are to avoid the mistakes of the Israelites.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.1-7a) GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO PRAISE HIM
  - A. This exhortation is given in the opening words -- "*O come, let us sing unto the Lord*" (vs.1a).
  - B. The writer continued by showing how God's people are to praise Him.
    1. (vs.1b) God's people are to praise Him by making "*a joyful noise*" to Him.
    2. (vs.2b) More specifically, God's people are to praise Him through the singing of "*psalms.*"
    3. (vs.2a) God is to be praised with "*thanksgiving.*"
    4. (vs.6) God is to be praised with "humility."
      - a. Those who praise God are to "*bow down*" and "*kneel*" before Him.
      - b. We are reminded in vs.7a that God is the Shepherd, and His people are the sheep.
  - C. The writer also showed why God's people are to praise Him.
    1. (vs.1b) God's people are to praise Him because He is "*the rock of our salvation.*"
    2. (vs.3) God's people are to praise Him because He is "*a great God, and a great King above all gods.*"
    3. (vs.4) God's people are to praise Him because everything is His, including "*the deep places of the earth*" and "*the strength of the hills.*"
    4. (vs.5) God's people are to praise Him because He created everything, including "*the sea*" as well as "*the dry land.*"
  - D. These words of exhortation are designed to help God's people remain faithful to Him.
    1. What will happen to God's people when they:
      - a. fail to praise Him by making a joyful noise to Him by singing psalms?
      - b. fail to express gratitude to Him?
      - c. fail to remain humble before Him?
    2. What will happen to God's people when they:
      - a. fail to recognize Him as "*the rock of our salvation?*"
      - b. fail to recognize Him as the "*great God*" who is "*above all gods?*"
      - c. fail to recognize Him as the owner and creator of everything?
  - E. This brings us to the 2<sup>nd</sup> exhortation.
- II. (vs.7b-11) GOD'S PEOPLE ARE TO AVOID THE MISTAKES OF THE ISRAELITES
  - A. The Israelites did not listen to God's voice, they hardened their hearts, they provoked God, and they tempted God.
  - B. We read about 2 occasions when the Israelites made these mistakes in Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 14:1-4, 26-33.
  - C. When the Israelites faced difficulties, they should have followed the instructions given in Psalm 95:1-7a, and they should have listened to the message presented in Psalm 124.
  - D. Unfortunately, the Israelites lost sight of God's goodness and power, and they murmured against Him; consequently, many of them were kept out of the Promised Land.

Conclusion:

1. According to Hebrews 4:7, David wrote Psalm 95 (1000 BC).
  - a. He dealt with events that occurred many years before he lived.
  - b. He applied what happened earlier to the people living when he lived.
2. Years later, David's exhortation is applied to Christians in Hebrews 3:7-4:1.
  - a. Christians can fall away from the Lord just as the Israelites did.
  - b. What can we do to avoid falling away?
  - c. Rather than imitate the Israelites, let us follow the instructions given in Psalm 95:1-7a.