

REASONS FOR WORSHIP

PSALM 95:1-7

Introduction:

This psalm opens with an invitation to worship. "O 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." But it is a summons to a particular kind of worship. Much that goes under the name of worship in our day would not be considered a proper response to this summons.

The worship we present should be joyful. It should be flavored with sincere, heart-felt gratitude. It is a whole-hearted response to who God is and to what He has done for us. Do you notice the strong verbs in this invitation? Robert Webber was right when he entitled his book on worship, **WORSHIP IS A VERB.**"

The worshipper also bows before God in adoration and surrender—"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker."

The psalmist puts before us three compelling reasons for the worship. There are other reasons set forth in other places, but any one of these three is enough to make life-time, grateful worshippers out of us for the rest of our days.

Actually this a temple hymn that welcomed a company of worshippers as they came up the steps and prepared to the enter the courts of the temple. It was an invitation from Holy Resident of the Temple set to music. I want to us hear what the ancient people of Israel heard, and to respond to his blessed invitation. Why should we bow? Why should give to God the devotion and worship of hearts? Actually the evidence is clear--He alone is worthy of our worship.

I. BECAUSE OF THE GREATNESS OF GOD AS THE KING. (V. 3)

When the Hebrew worshipper entered the temple, he knew that he was approaching the throne of God. The God of Israel was enthroned inside of the Holy of Holy over the Ark of the Covenant. It was there that His sovereign presence was manifest day by day. So when the Hebrew bowed in worship, he was bowing before the King of all the earth, and especially the King over Israel. What the New Testament sings when the church gathers in worship says the King is here. This is why we gather so we can give Him the honor and worship that He rightly deserves.

1. He is sovereign over all the powers of the universe.

Psalm 95:3-4 (NKJV)

³ For the LORD *is* the great God, And the great King above all gods. ⁴ In His hand *are* the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills *are* His also.

Yahweh is the great God. And He is the great King above all gods. Doubtlessly on their way to the temple for the worship-festival, the people would have passed altars to many false gods. Israel struggled with giving to the great God their complete loyalty. They were always tempted to acknowledge the false gods of the nations around them. But the true worshipper bows before the invisible God who cannot be seen by the eyes of men, but the One who is above, greater than all of the other things men might choose to worship.

This is not a suggestion that the Psalmist believed the gods to be real gods, but some of the people did. While we moderns would not actually bow before any stone idols, at least most of us would not, we are guilty to placing trust in things like government, pleasures, money and material things, and giving them the trust and love that should go to God alone. Today that are many who will gather at the Super Bowl and will shout about the greatness of their team, but when they go to church they are silent about the greatness of their God. Who do you suppose is greatest in their eyes? What is more important in your life? Whatever is most important--that is your god!

There is nothing or no one known to man who deserves our worship except the Great King who is over all.

2. He is sovereign over all creation.

When you listen to all of the verse the Psalmist expands the realm of his rule. He takes a survey of the physical and natural world about us and declares that it is all under the command of the Creator-King. This includes the depths of the earth from which frightening volcanoes exploded, and the high mountains that dotted the horizon of Israel, and the great seas which were

always a mystery to the ancients. God rules over all of these different elements of the physical universe. He has the whole earth and its environment under His command. Jesus demonstrated this when He walked on the waters, and commanded the storms as though they were His servants, and when He spoke they obeyed. What a King!

This is why we gathered this morning--we are here to honor and acknowledge the true God who rules over the world in which we live. We are not here to honor Mother earth or Mother nature, but the King over all things. We acknowledge His rule over His creation.

II. BECAUSE OF THE GLORY OF GOD AS THE MAKER AND OWNER. (V. 4-6)

Psalm 95:4-6 (NKJV)

⁴In His hand *are* the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills *are* His also. ⁵The sea *is* His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry *land*. ⁶Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

The conviction of the Psalmist is clear--the Maker of all things is the Owner of all things. All things exist because He made them for His pleasure. He entrusts the things that He has made to humans so they can be keepers of them, but He never surrenders the

ownership to them. So we come regularly to bow before our Maker and Owner.

1. He is the Maker of all things.

This is where the Bible begins. Interestingly the Bible does not open with a scientific explanation for everything that is, but a revelation of God as the Maker of all things, including all humans, as a basis for their worship of Him.

The Darwinian theories have shaken the confidence of moderns in the Biblical record. Did God really create humans or could they be a product of natural selection and evolution? Is man really created in the image of God, or is he just another animal?

The Christian settles this issue by faith. They settle it in their hearts that nothing exists apart from Him. So encouraged by this conviction they gather with those of like mind to sing His praise and to bow before Him in submission.

2. His being the Maker validates His claim as Owner of all things.

In another Psalm of worship which we will reference this week, the Psalmist David sets this truth forth in wonder.

Psalm 24:1-2 (NKJV)

The earth *is* the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. ² For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.

The Gospel of John opens with affirmation of the same truth-- Jesus was the Agent of Creation, the Word that was spoken in power:

John 1:2-5 (NKJV)

² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

Do you understand the application of this? God made you so you belong to Him. God made everything that you claim to own, so they actually belong to God. You are accountable to God for how you live your life and what you do with what you own. We are here to acknowledge this as being true. We are here to bow in wonder before our Maker and Owner. Blessed be His holy name now and forever. amen.

III. BECAUSE OF THE GOODNESS OF GOD AS THE
SHEPHERD. (V.7)

Psalm 95:7 (NKJV)

⁷ For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.

What a wonderful confession by the Psalmist!

He will make the same confession in another Psalm with which you are probably familiar--Psalm 100.

Psalm 100:3 (NKJV)

³ Know that the Lord, He *is* God; *It is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Jesus identified Himself as the Great and Good Shepherd.

John 10:14-16 (NKJV)

¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and am known by My own. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

Do you remember what a shepherd does for his sheep?

1. As Shepherd He provides for His people.
2. As Shepherd He protects His people.
3. As Shepherd He guides His people.

If the Good Shepherd does this us, should we not bow before Him in gratitude? Especially since He laid down His life our

salvation in love. We bow before Him and adore Him. We
delight in Him. We rejoice in Him. We lift our voices in shouts
of celebration because of Him. We honor Him.

What a Savior!