

Psalm 95; Exodus 17:1-7

New American Standard Bible 1995

1 **Psalm 95** ¹ O come, let us sing for joy to the LORD,
2 Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.
3 ² Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving,
4 Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.
5 ³ For the LORD is a great God
6 And a great King above all gods,
7 ⁴ In whose hand are the depths of the earth,
8 The peaks of the mountains are His also.
9 ⁵ The sea is His, for it was He who made it,
10 And His hands formed the dry land.
11 ⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down,
12 Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
13 ⁷ For He is our God,
14 And we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.
15 Today, if you would hear His voice,
16 ⁸ Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
17 As in the day of Massah in the wilderness,
18 ⁹ “When your fathers tested Me,
19 They tried Me, though they had seen My work.
20 ¹⁰ “For forty years I loathed *that* generation,
21 And said they are a people who err in their heart,
22 And they do not know My ways.
23 ¹¹ “Therefore I swore in My anger,
24 Truly they shall not enter into My rest.”

25
26 **Exodus 17** ¹ Then all the congregation of the sons of Israel journeyed by
27 stages from the wilderness of Sin, according to the command of the
28 LORD, and camped at Rephidim, and there was no water for the people to
29 drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us
30 water that we may drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel
31 with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for
32 water; and they grumbled against Moses and said, “Why, now, have you
33 brought us up from Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock
34 with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “What shall I do
35 to this people? A little more and they will stone me.” ⁵ Then the LORD
36 said to Moses, “Pass before the people and take with you some of the
37 elders of Israel; and take in your hand your staff with which you struck
38 the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at
39 Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that
40 the people may drink.” And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of
41 Israel. ⁷ He named the place Massah [“*testing, temptation*”] and Meribah
42 [“*strife, quarrel*”] because of the quarrel of the sons of Israel, and
43 because they tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us, or not?”

The New Testament book of Hebrews repeatedly quotes Psalm 95 (five times in Hebrews 3:7-4:11). Psalm 95 refers back to the Exodus of Israel (such as Exodus 17, Numbers 20, etc.). What do you see from these passages that might provide better understanding of Hebrews? Why did the NT writer place such emphasis on those (as well as other) OT passages?

Observation (What does it say?):

Consider the observation questions on the back of this page. What do you notice in this passage?

- Repeated words or ideas?
- Comparisons or contrasts?
- Purpose or explanation?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Commands or instructions?
- Conditional (if–then) statements?
- What else do you observe in this passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- What words would you use to describe the different reactions in Exodus 17:
 - Of the people?
 - Of Moses?
 - Of the LORD?
- How does Psalm 95 interpret the reactions in Exodus 17?
- What other questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- What circumstances cause you to doubt or question God or His actions in your life?
- How do you usually respond to doubt or questions? In yourself? In others?
- Is doubt sin? When might doubt become “testing” or “quarreling” with God?

For more suggested methods of study: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/methodical-bible-study/>

For examples of inductive studies: <http://www.goodnotsafe.com/inductive-bible-study-examples-2/>

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)

For a much more detailed description of the methodology, see

Robert A. Traina, *Methodical Bible Study*. Wilmore, Kentucky: Asbury Theological Seminary, 1952.