

# Psalms 95:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

## Analysis

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This opening verse initiates a corporate call to worship with multiple imperatives that engage the whole person. 'O come, let us sing unto the LORD' employs the Hebrew word 'shir' (to sing), which denotes celebratory, joyful expression. The repetition of 'let us' demonstrates collective participation - this is not solitary worship but communal proclamation. 'Make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation' shifts the focus to the object of worship. 'The rock' (Hebrew 'tzur') represents God's unchangeable stability and strength, a metaphor employed throughout the Psalms for God's reliability (Psalm 18:2, 31:3). This rock is specifically identified as 'our salvation' - the stable foundation upon which deliverance rests. The progression from singing to joyful noise suggests intensifying emotional engagement, while the use of first-person plural ('us,' 'our') establishes the theological framework: worship unites the community around God's steadfast character.

## Historical Context

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Psalms 95 appears to be connected to Temple worship in post-exilic Jerusalem, though it may contain earlier elements. The structure mirrors liturgical responsive readings used in corporate worship settings. The call to worship formulae echo the Temple entrance liturgies documented in Psalm 24 and referenced in Isaiah 66:23. The invocation 'O come, let us' (Hebrew 'lechu') suggests a processional movement, perhaps as worshippers approached the Temple. The designation of God as 'the rock of our salvation' would have been especially meaningful after the

exile, when trust in God's stability had been tested. The phrase occurs similarly in Deuteronomy 32:15 and Isaiah 26:4, suggesting it was part of Israel's theological vocabulary across multiple periods. In the context of Jewish worship, this psalm would have functioned as an entrance liturgy, inviting the congregation to abandon daily concerns and enter the sacred space of worship. The psalm's emphasis on 'today' (verse 7) suggests it was used repeatedly in regular worship.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean theologically to address God as 'the rock of our salvation,' and how does this metaphor deepen our understanding of divine stability?
2. Why does the psalmist emphasize collective worship ('let us') rather than individual devotion, and what does this reveal about the nature of faith in community?
3. How does the progression from 'singing' to 'making a joyful noise' suggest an escalation in worship intensity and emotional expression?
4. In what ways does identifying God as our 'rock' provide assurance when facing circumstances that seem unstable or chaotic?
5. How should the call to corporate worship challenge modern individualistic approaches to faith and devotion?

## Interlinear Text

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לְכוּ	נִרְנֶנֶה	לַיהוָה	נִרְיָעָה	לְצֹר
H1980	let us sing	unto the LORD	let us make a joyful noise	to the rock
	H7442	H3068	H7321	H6697

יְשׁוּעָנוּ:

of our salvation

H3468

## Additional Cross-References

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**1 Corinthians 10:4** (Parallel theme): And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

**Psalms 81:1** (Sin): Sing aloud unto God our strength: make a joyful noise unto the God of Jacob.

**Psalms 150:6** (References Lord): Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD.

**2 Samuel 22:47** (Salvation): The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

**Revelation 15:3** (Sin): And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints.

**Exodus 15:21** (Sin): And Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

**Psalms 34:3** (References Lord): O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

**Psalms 100:1** (References Lord): Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

**1 Chronicles 16:9** (Sin): Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.

**Colossians 3:16** (Sin): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

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