

# Psalms 95:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

## Analysis

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**Harden not your heart, as in the provocation** (אל־תַּקְשֵׁו לְבָבְכֶם כְּמֵרִיבָה), al-takshu levavkhem ki-merivah)—Kasheh means harden, make stiff, stubborn; merivah means contention, strife, provocation. **And as in the day of temptation in the wilderness** (כִּיּוֹם מֵסָה בָּמִדְבָּר) —Massah means testing, trial; refers to Exodus 17:1-7 at Massah and Meribah.

Psalm 95 calls worship, then warns against Israel's wilderness rebellion. "Provocation" refers to Exodus 17 where Israel quarreled with Moses, demanding water, testing whether God was with them. Hebrews 3:7-19 extensively applies this psalm to Christians, warning against unbelief that prevents entering God's rest. Heart-hardening is active resistance, not passive drifting—a choice to disbelieve despite evidence.

## Historical Context

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The wilderness generation saw miracles—Red Sea crossing, manna, quail, water from rock—yet still hardened their hearts in unbelief. Their rebellion at Kadesh-Barnea (Numbers 13-14) resulted in 40 years of wandering and that generation's death before entering Canaan.

## Related Passages

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

## Study Questions

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1. What does it mean to "harden your heart" rather than simply doubting or questioning?
2. In what areas might you be hardening your heart against God's clear leading or provision?
3. How does Hebrews 3:7-19 apply this warning to Christians regarding perseverance in faith?

## Interlinear Text

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כִּי זֶה  
פָּמְרִיב הַ  
ל בְּרַכְמָתְךָ וְאֶל  
מִן הַמְּדֻבָּר:

H408 Harden    H7185 not your heart    H3824 as in the provocation    H4808 and as in the day  
H3117

of temptation    in the wilderness

H4531    H4057

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 17:7** (Parallel theme): And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

**Numbers 20:13** (Parallel theme): This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.

**Numbers 14:11** (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them?

**Numbers 14:22** (Parallel theme): Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

**1 Samuel 6:6** (Parallel theme): Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?

**Deuteronomy 6:16** (Parallel theme): Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

**Hebrews 12:25** (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

**Romans 2:5** (Parallel theme): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

**Hebrews 3:13** (Parallel theme): But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

**Acts 19:9** (Parallel theme): But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.