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Psalm 115

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 115.

Topics.

- The God of Israel is in the heavens; He does all that he pleases.
- Idols are silver and gold the work of human hands.
- Those who make idols become like them; so do all who trust in them.
- You, who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and shield.
- The heavens are the LORD'S; the earth He has given to mankind.
- The dead do not praise the LORD, but we will bless the LORD.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 115:1

The God of Israel is in the Heavens; He does all that He Pleases.

- **Psalm 115:1:** Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

The Psalmist tells Israel not to give praise or glory to their nation, but to the name of the LORD only. Israel at times was a great nation, and had some amazing and triumphant victories. The writer is warning Israel about claiming the victories or their success and greatness to themselves. This warning goes out to all who worship the LORD, especially those who have a tremendously successful local or global ministry, since with such success comes the danger of becoming puffed up in pride and thinking it is all because of their great talent and self-effort. To prevent his danger, it should be remembered that whatever the talent is that has given the success it is God who has given that talent or that gift.

PSALM 115:2-7

Idols are Silver and Gold the Work of Human Hands.

- **Psalm 115:2-7:** Why should the nations say, "Where is their God?" ³Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. ⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. ⁵They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. ⁶They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. ⁷They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat.

Here is the extreme foolishness of mankind, they make an idol with their own hands and then bow down before them and worship it. Idols are lifeless they have any power to do anything so in this sense they are dead in contrast to the true and living God who not only sees, hears and speaks, but holds the entire universe in the palm of His hand. He has no beginning and no end. He is the eternal One who made the stone and the wood that foolish man shapes into idols and then bows down to it and worships it as a god. When speaking of idols the Living Bible says, "O foolish man you chop down a tree and use some of the wood to build your homes, some to cook your food, some to warm your hands and some you carve into an idol and bow down before it to worship it, can't you see it's just a block of wood. If people choose a false way of worship, they will choose to worship a false god. The apostle Paul wrote:

- If anyone loves God, he is known by God. ⁴Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"— ⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Cor. 8:3-65).

The words, "For though there be many that are called gods," does not mean that there are many god's it refers to gods that are created by the imagination in the mind by a strong belief in them. The human nervous system does not have a mind of its own and therefore automatically responds to whatever is pictured on the imagination whether it is real or false. The stronger the belief the greater effect the mental image on the imagination of the mind will have on the human nervous system. This is why deception is so deceptive. It matters not if the god people believe in is real or not the nervous system responds accordingly. If the god a person believes in is a wrathful, vengeful and judgmental god they will feel emotions of guilt and fear in contrast to this if the god a person believes in is a god of love and compassion, they will feel emotions of love and comfort. This is why faith should be based upon the Scriptures of the Bible and never upon on emotions.

This does not mean emotions should be denied, God gave them to us to enjoy (especially in worship and praise) it just means that they should not be the foundation of our faith and what we believe. It is through reading the Bible that we learn who the one and only immortal, invisible, eternal God is and His eternal will, plans and purposes for the world, the earth and for eternity. Clearly not one of these gods of the imagination have any power to create the earth, the mountains the seas there is only one God who has such awesome power and He is the Holy Almighty God of all creation and the source of all life the great I AM the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When speaking of idols the Living Bible says, "O foolish man you chop down a tree and use some of the wood to build your homes, some to cook your food, some to warm your hands and some you carve into an idol and bow down before it to worship it, can't you see it's just a block of wood.

For further information see:

- Demons in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PSALM 115:8

Those who Make Idols and Trust in them Become Like Them.

- **Psalms 115:8:** Those who make them become like them (are like unto them in KJV) so do all who trust in them.

The words, "Those who make idols are like them," means they are as ignorant and stupid, and void of all sense and reason, as the lifeless images they make in that they do not make proper use of the eyes, ears and hearts and the ability to reason that God has given them. Nor can

they see the invisible things of the true and living God in the works of creation. They do not hear the voice of His providence and grace or that of the day and the night, which, in every speech and language, declares his glory:

- The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. (Psalm 19:1-3).

Not only do they have no understanding that a lifeless and dead image which their own hands have made, must be weaker and every way inferior to themselves, but also are so spiritually blind that they cannot even see that it has no power to offer them the any type of help in the time of their need. They are as much without sense as are blocks of wood and lifeless stones.

PSALM 115:9-13

You who Fear the LORD, Trust in the LORD! He is their Help.

- **Psalm 115:9-13:** O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. ¹⁰O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. ¹¹You who fear the LORD, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield. ¹²The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron; ¹³he will bless those who fear the LORD, both the small and the great.

All Israel (the kings, priests and people) are called to give glory to God's steadfast love and His faithfulness and trust in the LORD their God. This call applies to everyone who fears and loves God. It, matters not whether a person is a Jew or Gentile, a priest or lay person, noble or lowly, rich or poor, famous or of low estate if they love, trust and fear the LORD He will remember them and be their help and their protection.

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects:

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually. The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly, there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of God and Christians: those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise, it is with the faithful who belong to the Lord's global family.

PSALM 115:14-16

The Heavens are the LORD'S, Earth He has Given to Mankind.

- **Psalm 115:14-16:** May the LORD give you increase, you and your children! ¹⁵May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth! ¹⁶The heavens are the LORD'S heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.

At this moment God's judgment is delayed, it could be said that we are living in the long day of death and the long day of grace. The earth could be likened to a house being leased to a tenant and a landlord. The landlord leases the home to the tenant. Providing the tenant pays their lease and does not trash the home the landlord pretty much leaves them alone to do their own thing. Likewise it could be said that the LORD at this present moment in the history of time has in a similar sense leased the earth out to mankind to do as they please, but, in the same way that the earthly landlord will intervene in into the tenants life if they trash the home God will eventually intervene into mankind's life when the cup of iniquity is full and they have almost brought the planet He created and that we live on to ruin. If over the years mankind's history, a fraction of the money spent on war, weapons of mass destruction and space travel was spent on cultivating the earth it would be producing fresh water and food for all mankind. If over halve the budget was spent on enhancing life on earth it would also provide shelter, clothing and schools for every man woman and child.

PSALM 115:17-18

The Dead do not Praise the LORD, but we will Bless the LORD.

- **Psalm 115:17-18:** The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into silence. ¹⁸But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

Those who deliberately and consciously deny the existence of God will go down to the darkness of the grave without any hope of being raised. In contrast to this those who love the LORD will not only be raised to eternal life and everlasting happiness, but will also praise the LORD throughout all eternity.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
