

Part 2 – Trust in the Lord and Be Blessed

In part 2 we learned of the *vanity* of idolatry. For those who don't believe in our Creator (i.e. that there is a *Supreme* God who we *cannot* see) only worship things they *can* see. And many times, they made (and still make) idols (out of various materials) to worship those their 'false gods' (Acts 7:43). Thus, the 'heathen' are very *carnally* minded (Rom 8:5-8) and cannot understand that *true* worship is done (to the *true* God) in our *spirit* and in *truth* (John 4:23-24). And that's why their worship is also *very* carnal (Rom 8:5-8). And the Psalmist also pointed out the (obvious) fact that physical 'idols' people make (and worship) are nothing but *inanimate* objects! They have no 'senses' (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch) nor can they walk or even speak. So, they are not even *living* beings - but (quite literally) lifeless *nothings*, which is why praying to them is *totally* 'in vain' (worthless, i.e. pointless), for they *cannot* hear (nor help) you.

And we also learned that 'idols' are not *just* inanimate objects people make from *physical* things. They are (more often than not) 'images' that people make *within their own heart* (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) *and mind* (thoughts). Therefore, people often make (fashion) 'idols' *within* their carnal mind (Rom 8:5-8) by entertaining evil/sinful *thoughts* and *desires* (i.e. that which is contrary to God's Word). That's why Paul summarizes idolatry *as covetousness* (Col 3:5). So, people make 'idols' in their heart (carnal mind) when they *lust after things*. Therefore, *anytime* we 'make' something (be it inanimate objects, people, sex, power, money, fantasies, daydreams, entertainment, etc.) *more* important to us, than pleasing our Heavenly Father, then *it becomes an idol to us*. Said another way, *if* we have our 'heart set' on *anything other* than our pleasing (serving) our Heavenly Father (first and foremost), *it becomes an idol to us*. Of course, this doesn't mean we can't love others (for we should, Lev 19:18, Mk 12:31) or enjoy the things God has given us (1 Tim 6:17). It simply means we *can't* allow the things of this world to be *more* important to us than pleasing (serving) our Heavenly Father (1 Pt 4:1-2).

And then we learned that, those who make idols are 'like unto them'; and that means, those who make idols (physically and/or spiritually) are just as *lifeless*, and *worthless*, '*nothings*' as the idols are! Therefore, idol worshippers are as *spiritually dead* as those vain idols they worship. Yet, the Psalmist also pointed out that, even *trusting* in an idol *someone else* made is *just as vain*. And that's why it's to our benefit to worship the one (and only) Living God (YHVH) - who is, not only self-existent *and* eternal - but is *also* the *only* one who can give us *eternal* life too! So, the Psalmist did a really good job at 'making his case' for *why* we shouldn't make, or trust in, idols *of any sort* – not physically *nor* spiritually, in our own heart and mind. For, of a truth, *we become like what we worship...*

Psalm 115

9 O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

So, now the Psalmist begins to speak of *Who* we should worship – and more specifically, *Who* we should *trust* in! And, as the *Companion Bible* points out, the Psalmist referencing ‘Israel’ here is referring to *all of* Israel, i.e. the *literal descendants* of Jacob/Israel. And then the word ‘**trust**’ is the same Hebrew word that was rendered as ‘trusteth’ in the prior verse (8), so it still means *to hide for refuge* or, figuratively, *to trust, be confident in*, or *sure* (#982). And the word ‘**Lord**’ here is again God’s sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** (i.e. YHVH) which means (the) *self-Existent* or *Eternal* (#3068) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>]. So again, the use of His Sacred Name points to the fact that *only* our Heavenly Father (Yehovah) is eternal *because* He’s the *only* one who has *always* existed and *always* will (Rev 1:8, 4:9, 11:17, 16:5, 22:13). And then the word ‘**help**’ here simply means *aid* (#5828). And then the word ‘**shield**’ does mean *a shield* (i.e. the small one or buckler) and, figuratively, it can also mean *a protector* (#4043).

So, while ‘idols’ (physical *or* spiritual) *cannot* help (or protect) us, our Heavenly Father (YHVH) **can** *indeed* do so, *because* He is the one (and only) *Living* God! And so, we see (in this verse) the Psalmist make a ‘call’ for all of Israel to trust in (and be confident in) the Lord (YHVH), for He (alone) is the *only* one who can truly help, and protect, us. And the obvious implication is that, we should trust in the Lord (YHVH) *instead of* vain idols. Further, Ps 91:4 tells us that God’s truth (which is His Word, John 17:17) will protect us like a ‘shield and buckler’. And, in Eph 6:13-18, Paul gives us a list of spiritual things (truth, righteousness, Gospel of peace, salvation, Word of God) that make up our spiritual armor, which is given to us *from* our Heavenly Father. And, in verse 16, he likens our faith (in God’s Word) to a shield, because it protects us from all of the ‘fiery darts of the wicked’, which are *lies* which people *spiritually* ‘throw’ at us. After all, we are (whether we realize it or not) in a *spiritual* battle between good (Jesus Christ) and evil (Satan). That’s why Paul wrote, in Eph 6:12, that we truly don’t ‘wrestle *against flesh and blood*, *but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*’.

And that’s *why* we need the truth, righteousness, Gospel of peace, salvation, knowledge of God’s Word, and *faith in* God’s Word, to protect us (spiritually) from those who are trying to draw us away from [i.e. **apostatize** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>] our only *true* protection, peace and *life source*, i.e. our Heavenly Father (YHVH). And it was because we’re in a *spiritual* war that Peter warned us that the Devil (our adversary, Satan - Rev 12:9, 20:2) *is as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour* (1 Pt 5:8). So, Satan is the ‘ring leader’ (so to speak) of all rebellion; and he, therefore, is trying to get *everyone* to rebel against the *true* God (our Heavenly Father, YHVH). And if we don’t have on the ‘spiritual armor’ (that God gives us, Eph 6) then we are *terribly* vulnerable to the ‘wiles of the devil’ (Eph 6:11), which are the ‘tricks’ (#3180) Satan uses to get us to think with our ‘carnal mind’ (which is selfish, prideful, fearful and lustful, as 1 John 2:16, Gal 5:19-21 and other Scriptures tell us) *instead of* our ‘spiritual mind’ which is focused on *earnestly* fearing, loving *and obeying* the Lord, YHVH (Gal 5:22-23,

etc.). So, that's *why* the Psalmist points out that *only* the Lord (YHVH) is Israel's 'help and shield'...

Psalms 115

10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

11 Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

So, these two verses are nearly identical to the prior verse, which is actually a figure of speech (*Epistrophe*, apx 6) where the repetition of the same word, or words, is used at the *end* of successive sentences. And the purpose is to *greatly emphasize* what's being repeated. But notice also that, the beginning of these verses is not the same. That's because the Psalmist is calling on *different groups* to trust in the Lord (YHVH), because He's our only 'help and shield'. So, the first group (in vs 9) was Israel, i.e. the literal descendants of Jacob. And the second group (vs 10) is the 'house of Aaron', which were the priesthood back then; they were the ones who served in God's Temple, and made intercession for Israel *before* the Messiah came. And the third group is 'ye that fear the Lord', which means those who **both** fear *and* revere (#3373) the one (and only) **true, and Living**, God (YHVH). So, it's speaking of those who fear the Lord (YHVH), in the sense that they strive to *depart from evil* (Prov 16:6), for they know the *terrible* consequences that come from disobeying Him (i.e. the cursings, Deut 28, Lev 26). But those who *do* fear (to disobey) the Lord **will also** revere Him, which means to have a *profound* respect, and honor, for Him. So, this third 'group' includes *anyone* who is not of the 'house of Aaron', or even of Israel, i.e. the gentiles. Therefore, the Psalmist is really calling **all** people on the earth to *trust in* the Lord (YHVH) *because* He's the *only* one who can help, and protect, us.

Now, the notes in the *Companion Bible* (on Ps 84:9) also point out, this 'shield' truly is our Heavenly Father (Gen 15:1); and it's therefore, also *prophetical* of the Messiah, Jesus Christ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyGodsWord/460>]. That's *why* faith in Him (and His Word) is our *spiritual* 'shield' (Eph 6:15), which includes: favor (Ps 5:12), salvation (Ps 18:35), and truth (91:4). And 'favor' includes life (Ps 30:5), mercy (Isa 60:10), preservation (Ps 86:2), security (Ps 41:11), and remembrance and salvation (Ps 106:4). So, there are *many* benefits from fearing, loving, trusting and obeying the true God Almighty (YHVH)! And the Psalmist points this out now, because it is in *direct contrast* to the consequences (which are *terrible*) of worshiping idols (which he just spoke about in verses 4-8). So, while the Psalmist began this Psalm by proclaiming how *all* glory truly belongs to the Lord (YHVH), and then moved on to speak of the vanity of worshiping idols, he's now calling all people to *trust in* the *one and only Living* God, who is our *only true* source of *eternal* life. *And*, as the subject of this Psalm 115 points out, trusting in the Lord (YHVH) is *how* we are delivered from 'Egypt's' idolatry...

Psalms 115

12 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.

13 He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.

So now, the Psalmist begins to explain the *benefits* of trusting in (and serving) the true (Living) God, Yehovah (i.e. YHVH). And notice that, again, he speaks of the *three* different groups of people: Israel, the priesthood (house of Aaron) and those who fear the Lord (YHVH) no matter if they are ‘small or great’. The word ‘**Lord**’ here is again God’s sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** (i.e. YHVH). And, the word ‘**mindful**’ is usually rendered as ‘remember[ed]’ because it means *to mark* (so as to be recognized), i.e. *to remember* and, by implication, *to mention* (#2142). And then the word ‘**bless**’ means *to kneel* and, by implication, can mean *to bless God* (as an act of adoration). However, it can also mean for **God to bless ‘man’** (mankind) *as a benefit*, which is the context this word ‘bless’ is being used here (i.e. God blessing mankind as a benefit, #1288). And notice also how the Psalmist wrote ‘He will bless’ *four* times, i.e. us, house of Israel, house of Aaron, those who fear Him (*Anadiplosis* and *Anaphora*, apx 6). And this is important because it is *greatly emphasizing* the point that the Lord (YHVH) **will** bless those who trust in (and fear, and obey) Him!

And then, in verse 13, the word ‘**fear**’ again means *to fear* and *to revere* (#3373) while the word ‘**small**’ means *abbreviated*, i.e. *diminutive* (in quantity, size or number). And, figuratively, it can also mean ‘small’ in *in age* or *importance*. This comes from a word that means *to cut off* or *to detest* (#6962), which helps us to understand the depth of what ‘small’ means here. And then the word ‘**great**’ means *great* (in any sense) and therefore, can also mean *older* (#1419). This comes from a prim root that means *to be* (or *make*) *large* in various senses, such as in *body*, *mind*, *estate* or *honor* and even *in pride* (#1431). So, no matter what ‘status’ a person has, the Lord (YHVH) will *still* bless those who trust in, and fear (love and obey) Him! As Peter pointed out, in 1 Peter 1:17, the Lord (YHVH) judges according to everyone’s *works without* respect of persons; and that means those who serve the Lord (YHVH, i.e. Jesus Christ) will receive the *reward of the inheritance* (Rom 8:11-17) while *those who have done wrong* (sinned without repentance) *will receive punishment for their wrong doings* (Col 3:24-25).

So, our Heavenly Father does not care what status we have in life, how much money we have, nor how good looking we are (or are not) - He judges us all by the same standard, which is the Word of God (John 12:48). As Peter so well said, *God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him* (Acts 10:34-35). And that’s *why* this Psalmist is stressing (so greatly) how the Lord will be ‘mindful’ of us (i.e. He won’t forget those who fear, trust in and obey Him); for He **will** bless (with benefits, *both* physical and spiritual) those who trust in, fear, revere, love and obey Him!

Psalms 115

14 The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

Now the Psalmist is pointing out one of the (many) blessing the Lord (YHVH) promises to give those who trust in, fear, revere, love and obey Him. The words ‘**increase you more and more**’ are one Hebrew word (a prim root) that means **to add** or **augment** (which means to *make greater, more numerous, larger, or more intense*) and also means **to continue to do a thing** (#3254). Therefore, as you continue to strive to seek, hear, obey, fear and trust in (wholeheartedly) the Lord (YHVH), *the more He will bless you!* And, while this verse certainly does imply blessing you with more children, it also speaks of how your children will *also* be blessed if they continue to seek, hear, obey, fear and trust in (wholeheartedly) the Lord (YHVH) after they become adults. Therefore, even if we are living in a nation that has gone astray from God’s righteous Laws [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/155>], we can still be *personally* blessed if we ‘stick with Him’ and continue to seek, hear, obey, fear and trust in Him (wholeheartedly). And really, that is how we can have a positive impact upon those we are around, even when we do live in a nation that’s going ‘down hill’ [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/493>]. As Jesus said in Matt 5:16, “*Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*”.

So, our good words, and works, *do* have a positive impact on those we are around, even if we don’t realize it. And so does our faith in God’s Word, for Jesus also told us that, “*If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you*” (Matt 17:20). Jesus wasn’t speaking of a physical mountain here, but a corrupted nation; and we know this because, in the Scripture, mountains are often used, as an analogy, for nations (Isa 2:2-3, 11:9; Jer 51:25; Ezek 6:1-3, 17:22-23, Ezek 36:1-9, Ezek 38:8, 18-23, Ezek 39:1-4; Dan 2:35,44-45; Zeh 4:7, 8:3, Rev 17:9-11). So, it is possible to change our nation when we keep our faith (in God’s Word) strong; and that’s simply because it’s *impossible* for people not to notice someone who shines the ‘light’ of God’s Word! And, whether they like it, or not, *they will notice it*. And those who don’t have a hardened heart, will (eventually) either ask you a question (wherein you can plant a seed of truth) or seek God another way, be it studying His Word, searching for a Church that actually teaches the truth [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/332>], or even asking another Christian a question at some point in time. As Paul explained, because we (who believe, trust and obey the Lord, YHVH) have different gifts God gives us (1 Cor 12), sometimes we’ll be the one who ‘plants’ the seed of truth; but other times we might be the one who ‘waters’ a seed that someone else planted, unbeknown to us. But, either way, it’s God Almighty (YHVH) who makes that seed of truth grow in the heart and mind of an individual (1 Cor 3:6-7). And, just as a physical mountain is made up of many rocks, so too is a nation made up of many people. So, the way we can help God ‘move mountains’ is by sharing His Word (as the opportunities arise) *one person* (rock) *at a time*! And when we find, and use, our God given gifts, the Lord (YHVH) will indeed ‘increase’

(bless) us ‘more and more’, so long as we ‘stick with it’ and don’t loose focus on our purpose in life, which is to *serve God* and not our ‘self’ (1 Pt 4:1-2).

Psalms 115

15 Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

So, as we continue to learn God’s Word, *and* strive to obey it (learning to trust in, fear, love and obey Him) – *more and more* throughout our life – He will *continue* to ‘increase’ (bless) us. But, the Psalmist now points out, here in these verses 15-16, the fact that: it truly is the Lord (YHVH) whom we are ‘blessed’ (#1288) *by, because* He made heaven and earth. While He dwells in the ‘heavens’ (i.e. the spiritual, or ‘heavenly’ dimension, *that we cannot see*), **He created this earth for us** (who live in a flesh body) **to live in** [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/496>]. And, *because* He’s our Creator, He can *cause* us to be blessed (or cursed) by the earth we dwell in. As Deut 28, and Lev 26, point out, He can give us the ‘rain in due season’ which causes the earth to flourish immensely, which does greatly benefit us in many ways. Yet, if we (our society as a whole) disobeys Him, He can also cause the rain to stop or (just as bad) cause it to rain *out of* season, which can destroy crops (ex: 1 Sam 12:16-25). And the ‘cursings and blessings’ (in Deut 28 and Lev 26) also explain *many other ways* the Lord (YHVH) can ‘bless’ or ‘curse’ us, simply by *how He controls His creation on this earth* - from the weather to the animals, and even helping us (or not) when we fight physical (or spiritual) battles.

Yet, we should always remember, even if our nation is not being obedient to the Lord (YHVH), He will *still* bless us (and our family) *personally*, if we continue to seek, hear, fear, trust in and obey Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength (Mk 12:20)! But again, the point the Psalmist is stressing here is that: God Almighty (YHVH) truly is the *only* one who can bless us; not only with *physical* things (including the weather) but also with *spiritual* blessings (Eph 1:3-8) such as peace of mind, protection and help with any, and all, troubles that come our way. And truly, peace of mind really is the *biggest* blessing of all. For it’s not something you can buy... or steal for that matter! It only comes from having a *good* relationship with, and serving (obeying wholeheartedly) the true God (YHVH) who is our Creator. As Isa 26:3-4 so beautifully says, *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength...*

Psalms 115

17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

18 But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD.

Now the Psalmist points out that the ‘dead’ (#4191) don’t (and *cannot*) praise (celebrate, #1984) the Lord; and that’s simply because their spirit has gone back to the heavenly/spiritual dimension and, therefore, their flesh is no longer alive (Exx 12:6-7, 2 Cor 5). So, when our spirit (and soul) departs our flesh body, that means – *in this fleshly dimension* – we can’t praise our Heavenly Father anymore. And the phrase ‘go down into silence’ is simply another way to say the same thing, for the word ‘**silence**’ is a figurative term for **death of the flesh body** (#1745). Further, *all three* times the word ‘**Lord**’ is used here (in Ps 115:17-18) is the Hebrew word **Yahh** or **Yah** (#3050), which is a *contraction* (i.e. shortened version) for God’s sacred name **Yehovah**, #3068. However, *it means the same thing (self-existent and eternal)*. Thus, **Yah is Yehovah in a special sense and relation**, for it reveals Yehovah as **having BECOME our Salvation**. And remember, the ‘subject/title’ of this Psalm is “Israel’s deliverance from Egypt’s Idols”, *which IS salvation!*

Therefore, the Psalmist’s point is that: as long as we are still alive in these flesh bodies, we *should* praise (celebrate, #1984) the Lord (YHVH) for His salvation, i.e. delivering us from the vanity of worshipping idols - for that is one of the *best* blessings of all! But, the Psalmist goes further than merely saying we should praise the Lord (YHVH) for His salvation - we should also ‘bless’ HIM. This word ‘bless’ is the same Hebrew word used before (#1288) when referring to how the Lord (YHVH) will bless us; but it can *also* be used (as it is in this verse 18) of mankind ‘blessing’ God (YHVH) *as an act of adoration*. And, as we learned when studying prior Psalms (96, 100, 103, etc.), ‘blessing God’ simply means that we sincerely praise, and worship, *Him* - which can be done by song, but also through our words and actions in our daily life. As Jesus said in Matt 5:16: *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven*. So, our sincere faith, *and obedience*, to the Lord (YHVH and Jesus Christ) IS what blesses Him, just as much as our singing to Him, and maybe even more so. Therefore, ‘blessing’ God’s holy name also involves planting seeds *of truth* whenever the opportunity arises (Col 4:5-6; 1 Pt 3:15). And, you could even say that ‘blessing God’ is sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ because it helps others see that, while our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is a terror to the wicked ones (because they harm His children, Ps 145:20) He’s also *gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy* (Ps 145:8) *to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them* (Ps 103:18). And truly, we should do this “*from this time forth and for evermore*” (#5704, 5769), which means as long as we’re in these flesh bodies!

Now, the Psalmist **ends** this great Psalm with the precious phrase ‘**Praise the LORD**’. And, we’ve seen this phrase several times *before* (Ps 104, 105, 106, 111, 112, 113). So, by now we know that the word ‘**praise**’ is the Hebrew word **halal** (#1984) and means (in the context of these verse) to **celebrate** (all that the Lord, YHVH, has done for us). And then, the word ‘**Lord**’ is again **Yahh**, or **Yah** (#3050), which expresses the thought of **Yehovah as having BECOME our Salvation**. And let’s not forget that Psalm 104 ended with the thought of the wicked being consumed out of the earth (which *will* happen, at the end of the Millennium, Rev 20:10-15), and

Psalm 105 ended with the thought of ‘keeping God’s Laws’ (which is what *will* happen after Jesus returns) and then Psalm 106 ended with the thought of the “Lord our God” saving us (thus giving us a reason to praise Him forevermore). And from that we learned of **three ‘key’** (critically important) **elements to Jesus Christ’s return** (His Second Advent), **which are: *salvation, obeying God’s Laws and the wicked being consumed*** (deposed and eventually put to death). And then, Psalms 111 praised the Lord (YHVH) for His wonderful (and righteous) ‘**works**’, Psalm 112 praised Him for His wonderful ‘**ways**’ and Psalm 113 praised Him for His wonderful (and righteous) ‘**name**’ (character). And from this **we learned of three ‘key’** (critically important) **elements to praising the Lord (YHVH)**, i.e. for His wonderful (and righteous) ‘*works*’, ‘*ways*’ and ‘*name*’ (characteristics).

So, the fact that this Psalm ends with the phrase ‘Praise ye the Lord’ (Hallelujah) *also* teaches us something, which is the *importance* of praising (celebrating) our Heavenly Father *for* His delivering us from ‘vain idols’, for that truly is *how* He ‘saves’ us! As Paul so well wrote, in Rom 6:23, *the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.* And that’s something we should *never* forget to thank, and celebrate (praise), our Heavenly Father (YHVH) for!

*3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy **hath begotten us again unto a lively hope** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

*4 **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away,** reserved in heaven for you.*

*5 Who are **kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation** ready to be revealed in the last time.*

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

*7 That **the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, **might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*****

*8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, **yet believing,** ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

*9 Receiving **the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.***

1 Peter 1:3-9

Praise Ye the Lord! *Hallelujah!*

AMEN.