Part 4 – Blessing the True God, Yehovah

In part 3 we learned how the Lord (YHVH) brought the Ten Plagues upon Egypt to point out that, those miraculous plagues were something that *only* the Lord (YHVH) could do, i.e. it *distinguishes* Him from *all others* who are called 'god'. For, while the Egyptians prayed to their *false* gods, they *could not save them*. And that *proved* they (their false gods) were truly *powerless*, while Israel's God (YHVH) had *immense* power, even over *creation itself*. And then the Psalmist gave us some other examples to prove how the Lord (YHVH) is far greater, and above all, others called 'god'. For even before Israel got to the promise Land they were attacked (unprovokedly) by foreign nations that were greater in size *and* power, than Israel (i.e. the Amalekites, the Amorites and other Canaanites on the west side of Jordan). Yet, the Lord (YHVH) was *able* to give Israel the victory over them. And then the Psalmist pointed out that, Israel's inheriting the Promise Land was also proof that the Lord (YHVH) is far greater, and above all others called 'god'. For there too were many people, and nations, far greater (in size, number, and experience in battle) than Israel was.

And then the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) praised Yehovah (which is the subject of this Psalm) for another one of His wonderful characteristics, i.e. His *eternality*. And, Yehovah's name *endures forever* <u>because</u> **He** *endures forever* - which is *exactly* what His Sacred (and covenantal) name means (#3068). And His 'memorial' (i.e. remembrance of His name) *also* endures 'throughout all generations', which also means *forever*. So, no matter how many generations of people die off, the Lord's name (Yehovah) is *still* remembered; and that's because He is the *true* God, i.e. the *Eternal* God who created us! As Isa 40:6-8, and 1 Peter 1:24-25, both declare, while our flesh bodies (which are as temporary as the grass and flowers) will 'withereth' away (i.e. we will all die *someday*, Heb 9:27), the Word of God *endures forever*! And, as John 1:1 tells us, God and His Word *are the same*; so, they both are *eternal* and thus, will be *remembered forever*.

And then the Psalmist praised the Lord (YHVH) for another one of His righteous characteristics, i.e. His fairness (righteousness), especially when judging. For when His 'chosen' people, Israel, went whoring after false gods, and idols (which caused them to break His Laws), He didn't turn a 'blind eye' to it. He judged, and punished, them righteously… *just* as He *warned them* He would do in the 'cursings and blessings' (Deut 28, Lev 26). Yet, He *always* 'repented Himself' (i.e. had pity on them) when they would call out to Him for help, with earnest repentance. Thus, Israel's existence (and prosperity) *solely* depended upon the Lord (YHVH) *helping* (defending) *them*. And this point also reinforces (again) the fact that the Lord (YHVH) is truly *far greater*, and *above all*, other 'gods' and idols. For, whenever Israel turned to worshiping (and calling upon for help) *false* gods, and idols (which were made to worship false gods), they *always* found themselves *worse off* than when they worshiped (and called upon for help) the *true* God (YHVH). And that's because, the *true* God (YHVH) is the ONLY one who could save Israel out of *any* trouble… and this is a fact that remains true *to this very day*!

And this is why Paul urges us to look back at the many examples of Israel's history; for we should learn from them, i.e. how detrimental it is to worship false gods and idols (1 Cor 10:1-12). That's why he also urges us to flee from idolatry (vs 13 – Col 3:5) and remember that, God is *always faithful* to help us with *any* trial, or temptation, that comes our way… so long as we are *truly worshiping Him* (i.e. to love, fear and *obey* Him, vs 13). Therefore, the Lord (YHVH) is *not* a respecter of persons' (Deut 1:17, Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11, 1 Pt 1:17, Col 3:24-25), which means He is not partial in His judgment. For, He did not even allow His own 'chosen' people (Israel) to sin without punishing them. So, all people (regardless of race, gender, nationality, wealth, position in life) will *all* be judged by the same standards, which is His Word (John 12:46-48; Rom 2:14-16). So truly, in every sense, the Lord (YHVH) **is** "*righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works*" (Ps 145:17) <u>because</u> "*all his ways are judgment*", for He is a "*God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He*" (Deut 32:4). And this this is *yet another* reason we should praise Him! And we'll now pick up in this precious 135th Psalm where the Psalmist begins to speak of idols of the heathen, and *how vain* (worthless, useless) they are, *especially* compared to the *true* (Living) God (Yehovah) who is *our Creator*…

Psalm 135
15 The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

So, while the Psalmist (likely Hezekiah) has been making the point that the Lord (YHVH) is *far* superior to (better than, and above) all that is called 'god', he now begins to speak of idols of the heathen, i.e. those who don't believe in the true (Supreme) God, who is our Creator (YHVH). This verse is also written in Psalm 115:4, *nearly* verbatim, "*Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands*". Thus, many of the words are the same. So, the word '**idols**' here still means ***an (idolatrous) image*** (#6091). And this is important because it reveals that there <u>is</u> a *distinction* between having images (such as pictures and figurines) simply *for decoration* purposes verses actually *worshipping* them. And this word (#6091) comes from a prim root that means ***to carve***, i.e. ***<u>fabricate</u>*** or ***fashion***. And, interestingly, it can even mean (in a bad sense) to ***worry, pain*** or ***anger*** (#6087). And then, the word '**silver**' does mean ***silver*** (from its pale color) but can also mean, by implication, ***money*** (#3701). And the word '**gold**' does mean ***gold*** or, figuratively, ***something gold-colored*** (i.e. yellow), as oil, a clear sky (#2091). The *Companion Bible* has a note on this (in Ps 115:4) which explains that, 'silver and gold' are a figure of speech (*Metonymy*, of cause, apx 6) which is when one name, or noun, is used instead of another, to which it stands in relation. So, gold and silver are used here, as *examples* of what idols *could* be made of, simply because they were *often* used to make idols. However, idols were also made of many other things (wood, stone, etc.), especially for those who could not afford precious metals.

Now, the word '**work**' here means ***an action*** (good or bad), as well as ***a product*** or ***property*** (#4639). So, those who don't believe in our Creator (i.e. that there <u>is</u> a *Supreme* God that we

cannot see) worship things they *can* see. And many times, they made idols (out of various materials) to worship those their 'false gods', as Acts 7:43 points out. And they do this, because the 'heathen' (which means a foreign nation, #1471, but *also* refers to those who don't believe in, and faithfully serve, Jesus Christ) are so *carnally* minded (Rom 8:5-8) they want *something* they can *physically* worship (love, adore or even bow down and pray to), for they simply don't understand that *true* worship is done (to the *true* God) ***in our spirit and in truth*** (John 4:23-24). So, their worship is very carnal, which is why Paul warned that, *to be* ***carnally*** *minded is death; but to be* ***spiritually*** *minded is life and peace.* And that's *because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* And that's *why* those who are '*in the flesh'* (carnally minded) *cannot please God* (Rom 8:6-7).

Further, money is also often an 'idol' to people, simply because they want to fulfil their lust for more 'stuff' – again, because they are carnally minded. But, as Jesus Christ warned us that, "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon* [i.e. lust for wealth #3126]" (Matt 6:24). And that's why He later told us, "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God,* ***and*** *his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matt 6:24). So, if we seek to learn (and obey) God's Word (i.e. the righteousness it teaches us) *first and foremost* in our life, then all the things we *need* (not lust for) *will* be 'added unto you'. And usually, the Lord (YHVH) will bless us with *more* than we actually need *when* we're *faithfully* serving Him. And while having a lot of money is certainly not a sin, we should be careful to guard our heart (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) against *coveting* money because lust is what *corrupts* our heart and mind (thoughts), as Paul so well warned in 1 Tim 6:6-12. Additionally, Jesus also warned us not to worry (take no thought) for what will come in the future (Mth 6:34); *because* the Lord (YHVH) knows what we need and will provide for us *when* we faithfully love, and obey Him (earnestly, the best we can).

So, while Psalm 115 was explaining the 'heathen theology', and here the Psalmist has been explaining the 'Divine theology', the point is the same. Those who are 'heathen' (i.e. those who *don't* worship the true God, Yehovah) will look to *physical* things (or even to their own *fantasies*) to worship *instead of* striving to develop a real, *and intimate*, relationship with *our Creator* (YHVH). Again, as Jesus points out, *true* worship is done (to the *true* God) ***in our spirit and in truth*** (John 4:23-24). So, the worship of the 'heathen' is very carnal, which is why Paul warned that, *to be* ***carnally*** *minded is death; but to be* ***spiritually*** *minded is life and peace* (in Rom 8:6)! As the prophet Isaiah so well wrote, "*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace,* ***whose mind is stayed on thee****:* ***because he trusteth in thee***" ...

Psalm 135
16 They have mouths, but they speak not; ***eyes*** *have they, but they see not;*
17 They have ***ears****, but they hear not; neither is there any* ***breath*** *in their mouths.*

These verses are *nearly* identical to Psalm 115:5-7; but in Psalm 115 the Psalmist adds that, while they (the idols) have noses, they cannot smell. And while they have hands, they can't 'handle' anything. And while they have feet, they can't walk either. And, while they have throats, they can't speak either… and that's because idols (images made by the 'work of men's hands') are *not* living beings! And this is why the word '**breath**' (herein Ps 135:17) is the Hebrew word ***ruwach*** (#7307) and simply means ***wind***. But, (by resemblance) it can also mean ***breath***, i.e. *a sensible* (or even violent) *exhalation*. Yet (also by resemblance) it can also mean ***spirit*** - but only *of a rational being* (including its expression and functions); and (figuratively) it can also mean, ***life, anger*** and, ***unsubstantiality***. The *Companion Bible* has a really good appendix (9) that explains the different usages of this Hebrew word 'ruwach' (#7307). And it essentially means the invisible part of us, i.e. our 'inner man'.

So, the point is: 'idols' people make (and worship) are nothing but *inanimate* objects. They have no 'senses' (sight, hearing, smell, taste, touch) nor can they walk or speak. So, they are not even *living* beings - but (quite literally) lifeless *nothings*, which is why idolatry is often rendered as 'vanity' (#7723, Ps 24:4, 119:37; Prov 30:8; Isa 5:18, 30:38; Jer 18:15; Ezek 13:6-23, etc.) or 'vain' (#7723, Ex 20:7; Ps 26:4; Lam 2:14, Ezek 12:24, 13:7, etc.). So, praying to them is *totally* 'in vain' (worthless, i.e. pointless) for they can hear (or help) you ***no more*** than any other *inanimate* object. That's why our Heavenly Father (YHVH) said, *turn ye not unto idols, nor make to yourselves molten gods: I am the LORD your God* (Lev 19:4). Further, many people who worship idols are actually (even if unknowingly) worshiping 'devils', which are simply *fallen* angels (Acts 7:43; 1 Cor 10:20-21; Rev 9:20, 12:9, 20:2; 2 Kings 17:16; Deut 32:17; 2 Chron 11:15) who entice them into doing *horrible* things such as literally sacrificing children (Ps 106:36-38, Deut 32:17, Ezek 20:31, etc.), even 'in *His* name' (Ezek 20:39)!

And further to this, what people often don't realize is that 'idols' are not *just* inanimate objects people make from *physical* things. For, they are (more often than not) 'images' that people make ***within their own heart*** (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) ***and mind*** (thoughts). The Bible calls this 'imaginations' (Gen 6:5, Deut 31:21; Jer 3:17, 7:24, 9:14; Prov 6:18; Rom 1:21-25; Lk 1:51, etc.) and David warned his son, Solomon, that God knows *exactly* what the 'imaginations of the thoughts' in our mind are (1 Chron 28:9) – whether they are good (upon Him) or bad (upon idols)! That's why Paul tells us we should 'cast down' (kick out) the evil 'imaginations' (thoughts and desires) we have *within ourself* and work to bring into captivity (control) *every* thought we have to the 'obedience of Christ' (in line with God's Word) (1 Cor 10:5). Further, the Lord (YHVH) also addressed those who set up idols in their heart, when He told Ezekiel, to speaks to the elders of Israel who came to inquire of the Lord, YHVH (Ezek 14:3-8). And within those Scriptures we see that, God promises that He (Himself) will fight *against* anyone who 'sets up' idols in their heart… and, that's simply *not* a good position to be in! For our Heavenly Father is our Creator (Gen 1:26-27; Ezek 18:4; Rev 4:11, etc.) and *He can*

do with us as He wants (Ezek 18:4; Mth 10:28). But, the point to our study (which these verses in Ezek 14 point out) is that, we *can* make (fashion) 'idols' *within our own heart* (carnal mind); and we do this when we *entertain* evil/sinful *thoughts* and *desires* (even day dreams or fantasies), 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 having a good relationship with our Heavenly Father** (i.e. earnestly studying His Word and striving to obey it, along with striving to obey His Holy Spirit), **then *it becomes an idol to us.***

This means that, **if** we have our 'heart set' on *anything other* than our serving our Heavenly Father, *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 (even money) 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 serving our Heavenly Father and communicating with Him, honestly and reverently. That's why John warned that we should ***love not the world***, ***neither the things that are in the world***. *If any man love the world,* ***the love of the Father is not in him***. *For all that is in the world,* ***the lust of the flesh****, and the* ***lust of the eyes****, and* ***the pride of life****, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And* ***the world passeth away****,* ***and the lust thereof****: but* ***he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever*** (1 John 2:15-17). And Peter summed it up rather well by explaining that we should *no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God* (1 Pt 4:2). You can learn more about this in the special studies below…

Graven Images https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017
Modern Day Idolatry https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/855
Idolatry in Our Day https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1119

Psalm 135
18 They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.

Now, this verse is also written (verbatim) in Psalm 115:8. And this verse is pointing out an *incredibly* important point, i.e. those who make idols (physically and/or spiritually) are *just as lifeless*, and *worthless*, '*nothings'* as the idols are… in other words, **we become like what we worship**! And that's *why*, while people who worship idols *can* actually physically see, hear, smell, taste, touch, speak and walk… they are truly 'walking dead men' (or women) because *there is no light* (truth) *in them* (Isa 8:10; Prov 6:23; Ps 119:105; John 12:46-50; 2 Cor 4:3-7; Eph 5:6-13; 1 John 1:5-10; 1 John 2:8-11). In other words, they are *spiritually* as dead as those vain idols they worship. Yet, the Psalmist also adds that everyone that *trusts* in idols are also 'like unto them' as well. The word '**trusteth**' (in Ps 115:8) is a prim root that means to ***hide for refuge*** and, figuratively, also means ***to trust, be confident*** or ***sure*** (#982). So again, those who trust

(have their confidence in, i.e. trust, in) idols (such as money, power, 'self', false gods, etc.) are just as *lifeless* (*spiritually* dead), and *worthless*, '***nothings***' as the idols are! As Jer 17:5-8 also points out, those who trust in 'man' are those whose heart *has departed* from the Lord (YHVH)! And thus, his end will be as a plant in the dessert that has no good water source, i.e. he'll dry up and wither away (Ps 37:20, Jude 12). But, those who trust (and hope) in the Lord (YHVH) are like a tree planted by deep waters, for they'll continue to grow *and be fruitful* (John 15, Col 1:10-11, Gal 5:22-25; Eph 5:9, etc.). As Prov 11:28 says, *he that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch*. And Prov 28:26 also tells us that, *he that trusteth* ***in his own heart*** [carnal mind, Rom 8:5-8] *is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered*. Again, as Isa 26:3-4 so beautifully states, our Heavenly Father will keep us in 'perfect peace' when we keep our mind *firmly* upon Him, *and* trust in Him! And it is trusting (and obeying) in the Living God (YHVH) that gives us everlasting life *and* strength!

So, the Psalmist (of both 115 and 135) has done a *really* good job at 'making a case' for *why* we shouldn't make, or trust in, idols *of any sort* – not physically, nor in our own heart and mind. For, of a truth, ***we become like what we worship***! And since our Heavenly Father (YHVH) is the *only* ***Living*** God (Deut 5:26, Josh 3:10; Ps 42:2, Jer 10:10, Acts 14:15, 2 Cor 3:3, 1 Tim 4:10, 6:17, Heb 3:12, Heb 9:14, etc.), we should, therefore, turn from **all** 'vanities' (idols) and **serve Him** who is self-existent *and* eternal (Yehovah, #3068) - for He *alone* made all things (Acts 14:15, Rev 4:11), even our own soul (Ezek 18:4). And therefore, He can do with us, *whatever* He wants (Ps 135:6; Mth 19:28, etc.). And He simply is *not* going to allow people *who do evil* to inherit the Kingdom of God (1 Cor 6:9; Gal 5:19-21), let alone live *forever* in eternity (Rev 21:8). So, if we want to live forever, it behooves us to worship the *true* God (YHVH) who is the *Living* God, i.e. self-existent and Eternal one!

Psalm 135
19 Bless the LORD, O house of Israel: bless the LORD, O house of Aaron:
20 Bless the LORD, O house of Levi: ye that fear the LORD, bless the LORD.

So, while the Psalmist began by calling His servants to praise (celebrate) the Lord (YHVH), he now begins to end this Psalm by calling them to 'bless' the Lord (YHVH). Now, the word '**Lord**' here is (again) God's sacred (and covenantal) name **Yehovah** which means (the) ***self-Existent*** or ***Eternal*** (#3068) [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946]. So, 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 '**blessed**' here means several things. It can mean ***to be blessed by God*** (as a benefit) but it can also mean ***to kneel*** and thus, by implication, ***to bless God as an act of adoration*** (#1288). So, blessing the Lord (YHVH, #3068) is *an act of adoration*. And, as we've learned from previous studies, this can be mean to praise (celebrate) and worship Him, but it *also* includes helping *to bring others to Him* by sharing the truth (whenever the opportunity arises, Col 4:5-6; 1 Pt 3:15) about how

wonderfully gracious, merciful, kind, loving, and *righteous* He is (Ps 96:2, 110:4, 145, etc.). And note the *four-fold* 'call' he makes to 'bless the Lord'. He calls for the 'house of Israel' (which means all tribes of Israel), the 'house of Aaron' (which means all of Aaron's descendants), the 'house of Levi' (which means all of Levi's descendants), and those who 'fear' the Lord (which means those *of any race* who fear, and revere Him, #3373) to 'bless the Lord'. And all four 'groups' were, indeed, chosen (by Him) to be His servants. As we learned in the first few verses of this Psalm, He called *all* of Israel to be 'servant nation'. That's why He called them His 'peculiar treasure' (i.e. His inheritance), which means they were supposed to be (unto Him) a "kingdom of priests" and a "holy nation" (Ex 19:5-6). And, *if* they had faithfully obeyed God's Laws, they would have been! But, they didn't; and that's why "Israel" now consists of *only* those (of Israel *and* Gentiles alike) who believe in, *and* **faithfully obey** (i.e. who 'fear') Jesus Christ, as Paul explains so well in Galatians 5 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooksEphesiansGalatian/14].

Yet, out of all of Israel, the Lord (YHVH) then chose the tribe of Levi to minister to Him, pertaining to His sanctuary (Deut 10:8-9, 18:5, 21:5, etc.); and that was *because* they were the *only* tribe that gathered to Moses when He asked (after Israel had made, and worshiped, the golden calf idol) '*who was on the Lord's side'...* and they even slew the rebels who were heading that rebellion, per the instructions of the Lord, YHVH, via Moses (Ex 32:26-28). So, not only was *all* of Israel called to be God's 'servants' but, the Levites were *specially* chosen, by God (YHVH), to minister to Him. But, then there was another 'selection' made. For, out of all the families in the tribe of Levi, Aaron (and his descendants) were chosen to be the *priesthood*, to minister ***in*** His Sanctuary (Ex 28-31). Yet, the other Levites were still commissioned to serve the Lord (YHVH), by moving the Tabernacle when the children of Israel changed camps as well as by singing. So, their duties were still *very* important, as Moses pointed out to Korah when he led a rebellion against him and Aaron (Num 16:9-11). So, this 'four-fold' call to 'bless the Lord' is pointing out that ALL the servants of the Lord (YHVH) – no matter their 'position' or 'duties' – should 'bless' the Lord (YHVH). Again, that means to praise (celebrate) and worship Him.

And, for those Levites, and Aaronites, living back before Jesus Christ came, that also meant to carry out their commissioned duties to the Lord (YHVH), *in earnest*. But, for us today, it also means helping *to bring others to Him* by sharing the truth, whenever the opportunity arises (Col 4:5-6; 1 Pt 3:15). So, even small 'seeds of truth' that we 'plant' (spiritually) in the minds of God's children (when the time is right) are indeed a wonderful way to 'bless the Lord'! For that does truly praise Him in that we are sharing the truth about how wonderfully gracious, merciful, kind, loving, and *righteous* He is (Ps 96:2, 110:4, 145, etc.). And that, in turn, gives God's wayward children the *opportunity* to turn back to Him (sincerely), make a good repentance and be restored to the 'family of God'… the *true* God, who is *Eternal* (#3068)! As Jesus told Peter, if we truly love Him, we *will* 'feed' His 'sheep' *and* His 'lambs' (John 21:15-18). And that simply means to share God's Word (the truth, John 17:17) with people, in a way they can *spiritually*

digest (understand), and *at the right time* [https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1369]. Therefore, even today, we (no matter our race, gender, or position in society) should still 'bless the Lord'!

Psalm 135
21 Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, which dwelleth at Jerusalem. Praise ye the LORD.

Now, the first time the word '**Lord**' here is used, it is (again) God's sacred (and covenantal) name ***Yehovah***, which means (the) ***self-Existent*** or ***Eternal*** (#3068). 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 '**blessed**' here is the same Hebrew word rendered as 'bless' in verses 19-20. So, while it can mean *to be blessed by God* (as a benefit), in the context of this verse it *still* means ***to bless God as an act of adoration*** (#1288). And then we see the phrase 'out of Zion', and 'which dwelleth at Jerusalem'. And (as we've learned in previous studies, such as Ps 134:3) 'Zion' is simply a hill in Jerusalem (#6726) that David conquered, and then made the capital of Israel, as well as the center of worship, when he moved the Ark of the Covenant there (2 Sam 5:7; 1 Chron 15:1). And so, over time, Zion became *synonymous* (i.e. another name) for the city of Jerusalem (Ps 14:7, 51:18, 102:21, Ps 125:1-2, 128:5, 135:21, 147:12; Isa 37:32, 41:27, 52:1-2, 7-9; Jer 3:14-17, 6:2-8, Jer 26:18; Lam 1:4-8; Zech 1:14-17, 2:10-13, 8:3, 14-15; Mic 3:10-12, 4:8; Joel 2:32, 3:16-21; Amos 1:2, 6:1; Mic 3:10; Zeph 3:14-17). And remember, 'Zion' (i.e. Jerusalem) was where the Ark of the Covenant (which was symbolic of God's presence) dwelt at the time Hezekiah wrote this song. So, that's *why* he called the Lord (YHVH) to be blessed 'out of Zion', which 'dwelleth' (resides, #7931) at Jerusalem.

In other words, because the Lord (YHVH) 'dwelt' (via the Ark of the Covenant) at Jerusalem (Zion) at that time, that's *why* the people were to *come to* Jerusalem *to worship* (bless) the Lord (YHVH). But, as Solomon explained, in 2 Chron 2:5-6, the Temple he built for God *only* served as a place the people could offer sacrifices to God. And that is, after all, what God Himself told Israel (and anyone of any other race) to do [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus]. And, while in the Wilderness, Israel had a 'mobile' Tabernacle to worship at; and that Tabernacle remained *in the midst* of them while they were in the wilderness. And when they were in the Promise Land, the Tabernacle went to different towns, and even got separated from the Ark of the Covenant at times. But, when David became king, he built another Tabernacle (Tent) for the Ark of the Covenant, in Zion (in Jerusalem) and (after one failed attempt to move it, 2 Sam 6) finally moved it into Jerusalem, so the city would not only be the capital of Israel but, *also* the center of worship for the nation (1 Chron 15-16). We learned about that back when studying Psalms 24. But after David died, then the Lord (YHVH) allowed Solomon to build Him a permanent Temple in Jerusalem; and that's where God promised He would 'put His name', meaning He would dwell there (1 Kings 9:1-3, 2 Chron 6:5-6, 7:16, etc.). **But**, Jesus Christ changed this, as He told the Samaritan woman at the well…

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.
20 ***Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship****.*
21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, ***the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.***
22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.
23 But ***the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.***
24 ***God is a Spirit****: and* ***they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.***
25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.
26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.
John 4:19-26

So, Jesus explained to this Samaritan woman (a non-Israelite) what God *really* wanted from her; and truly, it's also what He wants from all of His children. *True* worship of God (YHVH) *must* come from within our soul and spirit. And that means we *must* put truth (the Word of God) in our heart and mind (Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 10:16) so that we can learn to do *what's right*. God's Word cleanses us, and helps us learn to obey Him; which is *truly* what He's always wanted from **all** of His children (Prov 21:3, Deut 10:12-16*,* Eccl 12:13-14, Jer 7:23, Hosea 6:6, Amos 5:14-15, Mic 6:6-8, Ezek 14:1-6, Zech 1:3, 8:16-17, 1 Sam 15:22-23, Isa 1:11-17, Amos 5:21-24, Jer 7:21-23, John 4:21-24, Mark 12:28-31). So, while in Hezekiah's day they were supposed to worship God in Zion (Jerusalem) at the Temple, we are *now* to worship *wherever we are* in ***sincerity and truth*** because Jesus Christ IS our Passover (1 Cor 5:7-8). He fulfilled all blood sacrifices once and for all times (Heb 10:10; Gal 3:23-26). And this is why Jesus told the Samaritan that we don't need to worship at any specific building anymore; for the atoning blood of Jesus Christ has paid for our sins *once and for all times* (Heb 10:10). That means blood sacrifices don't need to (and should not be) offered anymore *because* Jesus has fulfilled them *forever* (Mth 5:17, 26:56; Lk 24:44-47). So again, we are now to worship God *wherever we are* by putting *truth* (His Word) *into* our 'inner man' (as He explained in Jer 31:33, Heb 8:10, 10:16) and **sincerely** *trying to obey it*. And, when we do that, His Holy Spirit will *literally* come to dwell in our flesh body, so that we *can have* the strength, and understanding, *to obey* Him. As Paul explained, *we are* the Temple of God *when* we accept Jesus Christ, for His Holy spirit dwells *within us* (1 Cor 3:16-18, 1 Cor 6:15-20, 2 Cor 6:14-18). And that is why we *don't* need a physical building to worship in today [https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/332].

So, this last verse is simply calling *all* those who love, fear *and obey* the *true* God (YHVH) to 'bless Him' *by worshiping Him* where, and how, He has told us to. And that's why the Psalmist ends this great 'Praise' Psalm *the same way he began*, i.e. "Praise ye the Lord". And (as a

refresher) this means *to celebrate* (praise) *Yah* (short for Yehovah) which is the Hebrew word "Hallelujah" (#1984, 3050). And, throughout this precious Psalm, Hezekiah has given us many reasons we have to praise (celebrate) the Lord (YHVH). For He has proven (over and over again) that Yehovah ***alone*** is the *true* God who *created us*! And, He's also proved (over and over again) that He is "*merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth*" (Ex 34:6). So, there are *many* reasons to praise (celebrate, worship, love and serve) the Lord (YHVH). And this precious Psalm is just one (of many) that gives us a really good (albeit short) 'history lesson' for *why* we should do so, *from the heart*…

8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision ***for the truth of God****, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:*
9 And ***that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy****; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.*
10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.
11 And again, ***Praise the Lord****, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.*
12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; ***in him shall the Gentiles trust****.*
13 Now the God of hope ***fill you with all joy and peace*** *in believing, that ye may abound in hope,* ***through the power of the Holy Ghost****.*
Rom 15:8-13

AMEN.