

I think this psalm is dealing with disappointment with God. Supposedly He had done great things for them in the past. "So what? Where is He today? Prove it! Show us something!" The devil tempted Jesus this way in the desert.

God's name (LORD) used 13x, and not once in the section about their idols. (vs. 4-8)

Dig deep to reach the underlying rhythms of truth that the passage expresses.

Psalm 115

Westminster confession: Man's chief purpose is to glorify God, to give Him glory.

When God does great things, we sometimes take the credit. And then when He doesn't seem to come through for us, we feel bad and are tempted to forsake our trust in Him.

Trust in the Lord

Our God

even when He doesn't seem to be doing everything we want Him to

He is our God, but we belong to Him. He doesn't do whatever we want. We're supposed to do what He wants.

Their "gods"

not in idols or in anything man has made

This is aimed not at the idolators, but at the Jews who were being tempted to go after idols!

You become like what you worship.

What you should do

Trust

for He has not forgotten us, and He will come through for us.

What He will do

Though the dead cannot, and the wicked will not, and the careless do not praise God, yet we will shout "Hallelujah" forever and ever. (Spurgeon)

and never stop blessing and praising Him

Bless

In the final week of his life Jesus said, "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify Thy name." (Jn. 12:27-28) It is almost a quote of verse 1 here.



Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Thy name give glory because of Thy lovingkindness, because of Thy truth. Why should the nations say, "Where, now, is their God?" But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

GLORY

"Where now is their God?" Possibly a cry for God to renew His works of old.

The idols cannot receive that which is handed to them, they cannot grasp the scepter of power or the sword of vengeance, they can neither



Their idols are silver and gold, the work of man's hands. 1) They have mouths, but they cannot speak; 2) they have eyes, but they cannot see; 3) They have ears, but they cannot hear; 4) they have noses, but they cannot smell; 5) They have hands, but they cannot feel; 6) they have feet, but they cannot walk; 7) they cannot make a sound with their throat. Those who make them will become like them, everyone who trusts in them.

MAN'S HANDS

distribute benefits not dispense judgments, and the most trifling act they are utterly unable to perform. An infant's hand excels them in power. (Spurgeon)



Idols may be made of the finest materials and craftsmanship, but they are lifeless, speechless, powerless, and useless. They

1. cannot give guidance
2. cannot see your needs
3. can't hear your prayers
4. can't smell your sacrifices
5. can't touch your problems
6. can't come to your aid
7. can't even make a sound to show you they are there

O Israel, trust in the LORD: He is their help and their shield. O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: He is their help and their shield. You who fear the LORD trust in the LORD: He is their help and their shield. The LORD has been mindful of us; He will bless us; He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless those who fear the LORD,

National THEIR SHIELD

Priestly

Personal



3 times
Help - provider
Shield - protector

1. Israel in general
2. The priests of God's service
3. The true Israelites, not only chosen out of all the people, or out of the chosen people for outward service; but serving God in sincerity of heart.

the small together with the great. May the LORD give you increase, you and your children. May you be blessed of the LORD, Maker of heaven and earth.

The heavens are the heavens of the LORD; but the earth He has given to the sons of men. The dead do not praise the LORD, nor do any who go down into silence; But as for us, we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forever.

THE EARTH

Coregency

The whole psalm seems to be in plural (us/them) and not in singular (me/he) as refers to people. The emphasis on the people of God, not the individual.



18 Praise the LORD!

Is it possible to believe in God but not trust Him? Apparently. Because of worry and fear we are tempted to include idols, other "gods," in our spiritual portfolio, just in case it might help. and it is even more tempting since the other "gods" are tangible. they have an illusion of being more real than our invisible God. And they are easier. They don't ask for righteousness or love. Just sacrifices. Do this and you'll get this. We like that. We feel in control. But does God "whatever He pleases." The can be infuriating.

God did not reveal any copiable image of Himself. He them a name. That was their point of contact. Not something they could see or touch, but something they could hold in their heart and on their tongue. That's why God is near to all who call upon His name. You could be near or far from an idol.