

## Psalm 115

October 27, 2021

Verses 9-11 and 12-13 are very similar to Psalm 135:19-20:

*O house of Israel, bless the Lord!*

*O house of Aaron, bless the Lord!*

*O house of Levi, bless the Lord!*

*You who fear the Lord, bless the Lord!*

House of Israel would seem to refer to all the children of Israel, “great and small.” The house of Aaron would be the descendants of Aaron from among whom would be chosen the high priests. The house of Levi is the Levites, the descendants of Levi who were given no territory in Israel but whose portion was the Lord Himself (Numbers 18:20). All priests were Levites but not all Levites were priests; that is, they could not perform the sacrifices. The

remaining Levites performed more mundane tasks in the temple (Numbers 3:21–26).

How about those who “fear the Lord”? In the New Testament, some Gentiles like Cornelius are called God fearing (Acts 10:1-2). They were converts to Judaism known as proselytes who enjoyed the privileges of the synagogue but were not required to be circumcised. Proselytes were also known in the Old Testament. 2 Chronicles 2:17 tells us there were 153,600 of them in the time of Solomon.

So this Psalm not only proclaims the blessings on the children of Israel, but also looks forward to all mankind who fear God knowing the creator of heaven and earth.

### Questions for study and discussion:

1. The Psalm is written at a time of trouble for Israel, perhaps during their captivity in Babylon. What appeal do the people make to their God for relief?
2. In fancy terms, verse 3 tells us that God is **transcendent** and **sovereign**. How does that help us explain why He does not always act the way we would like Him to?
3. The fabricated gods of verses 4-7 cannot speak, see, smell, feel, or walk. What is an example of our God doing each of these?

4. Verse 11 tells those who fear the Lord to also trust the Lord. How is it possible to fear the Lord without trusting Him?
5. How does the psalmist express confidence in the Lord's help?
6. Read verse 16. What other scriptures tell us that the earth has been given to mankind?
7. What is meant by verse 17?
8. The psalm ends with what commitment?