

Do you ever find yourself thinking **where is God** in all of the chaos around the world?

Psalms 115 helps to give us some encouragement during these times.

We are living in a society that is learning the hard way what it costs to worship substitutes, when we worship everything and anything other than the living God.

So it is no surprise that the Psalmist begins with the fact that: **Our God Reigns** v1-3. This is especially important to understand when confronted by the catastrophic things going on around the world. The temptation for us is to become overwhelmed by fear and at worst immobilised by fear.

When Isaiah went into the temple in Isaiah 6 he must have thought it was just another day in the office, so to speak. That perception changed rapidly when he saw the Lord high and lifted up. Isaiah no doubt would have been concerned about Israel's future with the death of King Uzziah after a 52 year reign. He discovered that human kings come and go but the King of Kings reigns supreme. We need to keep the same mindset when confronted by a world that is beset by chaos and turmoil. We have a wonderful God who reigns in mercy and in truth and does so on earth and in heaven.

This then reveals to us how important it is for us to worship: **The Living God** v4-8. The sad outworking of a rebellious people, nation and world is the shift from worshipping the true and Living God, to worshipping dead gods. These dead gods are characterised first and foremost by the reality that they have no life or power. This means they cannot impart

spiritual life and or give power to live a spiritual life.

To underline this the Psalmist points out a number of what seem rather obvious observations, which almost have a comical nature to it.

1. **No mouths** – These dead idols cannot speak to their worshippers. They cannot impart advice, knowledge or wisdom. Dead gods cannot make covenants, make and keep promises, or give encouragement. However, our God speaks to our points of need.
2. **No eyes** – Thus such idols cannot give their followers protection, oversight or care. Our God watches over us 24/7 and can be trusted to care for us.
3. **No ears** – No matter how much the worshippers of dead gods repeat themselves, or how loud they pray, they cannot hear or respond. This reminds us of the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel who were cutting themselves and shouting into a fruitless frenzy. Our God's ears are attentive to the cry of our hearts 24/7.

PRAISE the Lord for:

- Another 10 people confirming they want to be a part of our Impact Africa Mission trip this coming July
- His amazing provision for the ministry through a number of large gifts received to allow us to continue to develop and grow our projects around the world
- The positive response we are getting from our new Philippines edition. Each print run has increased by 10,000 and the papers are still running out. This last edition we printed 40,000

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4. **No noses** – No matter how much the fire was piled with offerings, dead gods could not smell them. Yet our God is available to receive our worship 24/7, and delights in our genuine worship.
5. **No hands** – The reality of this rather sad but comical picture, was that the makers of the idols had more power than the idols themselves. Our God is constantly at work for us and in us.
6. **No feet** – These idols were immobile unless carried by their worshippers and yet they were blind to this. Our God carries us in those challenging and difficult times and walks with us each day.

The dreadful outcome of this is that those who trust in idols become like them. We become like the god we worship. With all the addictions we have in this world you don't have to go far to see this with drug addiction, alcoholism, or pornography. What we worship determines how we think, and how we think determines how we behave. However, when we come to Jesus and commit our lives to Him He transforms our minds, ears, eyes and hearts.

So the Psalmist then states what must seem the obvious in that our God is: **A Giving God** v9-15. We discover as we trust in the true and living God He gives us His help and

protection. No matter what we see on the TV news our God reigns. As we stand in awe of God we grow in our understanding of just who God is. One of the things we see is that we are remembered by God. In fact He knows us much better than we know ourselves. He is aware of our needs and meets them according to His perfect will and purpose.

Lastly, we see that our God is: **A Receiving God** v16-18. We know that all things belong to God but He has given us the earth to inhabit and look after. We who are the Lord's can give Him His due praise and worship. The wonderful joy of being a Christian is that God responds to the continual praise of His people. Remember – **OUR GOD REIGNS.**

{ CARL CARMODY
EDITOR CHALLENGE }

PRAYER needed for:

- The South Africa hub as we re-commence (no promotion during Covid) visiting churches and various groups to promote and develop the use of the Challenge newspaper through evangelism
- Our board (Nic, Graham, Rob, Steve, Dawn, John, Jenny, Carl) as they continue to oversee an expanding ministry around the world. Pray for God's wisdom and clear direction in the various requests to begin new projects around the world
- Our wonderful writers who contribute each month. Pray they will know the Lord's leading with each article they produce
- A number of our team who have ongoing health issues. Please pray with us for healing

Ongoing supply of testimonies

If you would like to share your testimony through the printed page please email carl@challengenews.org for further information

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