

Psalms 115:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield. After demolishing idolatry (vv. 4-8), the psalmist issues threefold call to trust, addressing different groups within Israel. Verse 9 called 'Israel' (the nation), this verse addresses the house of Aaron (בֵּית אַהֲרֹן/beit Aharon), the priestly line descended from Moses' brother Aaron.

The command **trust in the LORD** (bitchu b'Yahweh, בִּטְחוּ בַיהוָה) uses the Hebrew batach (בָּטַח), meaning to trust, rely on, feel secure. It's not mere intellectual assent but confident dependence. Priests, who ministered in God's presence and taught Torah, needed special reminder: professional religiosity doesn't substitute for personal trust. Those who serve God vocationally can become spiritually complacent.

He is their help and their shield (ezram u-maginan hu, עֲזָרָם וּמִגִּנָּם הוּא). The parallelism emphasizes both assistance (ezer, help in need) and protection (magen, shield in battle). God doesn't merely advise from distance but actively intervenes. The emphatic pronoun 'He' (hu) contrasts the living God with dead idols. Idols are neither help nor shield; Yahweh is both.

Historical Context

The Aaronic priesthood bore unique responsibility. Descended from Aaron (Exodus 28-29), they alone could offer sacrifices, enter the Holy Place, and once yearly

enter the Most Holy Place. After the exile, the high priest became Israel's de facto leader since they had no king. Yet priests were human, prone to corruption (Malachi 2:1-9) and formalism. The call to trust God was particularly needed for those who might trust in religious office, ritual knowledge, or hereditary privilege. Caiaphas and the high priests who crucified Christ demonstrated how religious leaders can completely miss God while maintaining religious functions.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How might those in vocational ministry or spiritual leadership be particularly vulnerable to trusting in their role rather than in God Himself?
2. What is the relationship between serving God faithfully in your calling and personally trusting Him for help and protection?
3. How does understanding God as both 'help' (active assistance) and 'shield' (protective defense) inform your prayers during challenges?

Interlinear Text

בֵּית	אֶהְרֵן	וּבְטַח	בְּיְהוָה	עֲזָרָה	וּמִגֹּן	הוּא:
O house	of Aaron	trust	in the LORD	he is their help	and their shield	H1931
H1004	H175	H982	H3068	H5828	H4043	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 118:3 (Parallel theme): Let the house of Aaron now say, that his mercy endureth for ever.