

Psalms 115:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

Analysis

They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. The catalog concludes with hands (yedehem, יְדֵהֶם), feet (ragleihem, רָגְלֵהֶם), and throats (geronekhem, גְּרוֹנֶהֶם). Hands that cannot handle anything mock the idol's impotence—unable to bless, heal, deliver, or work. Isaiah ridicules the craftsman who uses his hands to make a god that has no hands (Isaiah 44:12-17).

Feet that cannot walk expose immobility. Idols must be carried (Isaiah 46:1-7), whereas Yahweh carries His people (Exodus 19:4; Deuteronomy 32:11). When Philistines captured the ark, Dagon fell on his face before it (1 Samuel 5:3-4)—Israel's God acted while pagan idols toppled helplessly. Jeremiah mocks idols that must be fastened down lest they tip over (Jeremiah 10:4).

The final phrase, **neither speak they through their throat**, reinforces verse 5's point about speechless mouths. The Hebrew hagah (הָגַה) can mean to utter, mutter, or make sound. Idols produce no sound—no prophecy, no revelation, no word of comfort or judgment. They are definitionally mute.

Historical Context

Ancient processions involved carrying idol statues through streets during festivals. The irony wasn't lost on biblical writers: worshipers carry their gods, but Israel's God carries His worshipers. This became particularly pointed during the

Babylonian exile when victors paraded their idol-gods while claiming divine endorsement. Yet Babylon eventually fell, her gods unable to save her (Isaiah 47), vindicating Israel's faith in the sovereign LORD.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the image of worshipers carrying their gods (versus God carrying His people) illuminate the difference between false and true religion?
2. What 'mute gods' compete for allegiance today—ideologies, systems, or values that promise much but deliver nothing ultimately saving?
3. How should the fact that God speaks (through Scripture, through His Son) shape our priorities in spiritual life?

Interlinear Text

They have hands	H3027	אַל	אַל	יְמִישׁ	אֵל	בְּגִלְעָם	אַל	אַל	בְּגִלְעָם	אַל	אַל
	H3808			but they handle	H4184		not feet	H7272		H3808	
have they but they walk	H1980	אַל	אַל	יְמִישׁ	אֵל	בְּגִלְעָם	אַל	אַל	בְּגִלְעָם	אַל	אַל
	H3808			not neither speak	H1897		they through their throat	H1627		H3808	

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