

# Psalms 135:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not;

## Analysis

---

The critique intensifies through anatomical inventory: 'They have mouths, but they speak not; eyes have they, but they see not.' Idols possess the appearance of sensory organs without their function. They have mouths crafted by artisans but cannot speak a single word - no revelation, no response to prayer, no guidance. They have eyes painted or inlaid with precious stones but perceive nothing - no awareness of worshiper's needs, no observation of human affairs. The contrast with Yahweh is implicit but devastating: the LORD speaks (His word fills Scripture), and His eyes run to and fro throughout the earth (2 Chronicles 16:9). The living God communicates and perceives; idols are cosmetically decorated corpses. This pattern of form without function exposes the futility of trusting what cannot engage with reality. Modern idols similarly promise much but deliver nothing of ultimate value.

## Historical Context

---

Ancient Near Eastern idols were often elaborately crafted with realistic features. Some traditions believed the deity inhabited the image after special rituals. The biblical critique dismisses such beliefs as self-deception. Eyes might be made of precious stones, mouths carefully carved and painted, yet they remained lifeless matter.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. What is the danger of trusting in things that cannot truly see or speak?
2. How do lifeless idols contrast with the living God?

## Interlinear Text

---

פֶּה	לֹא	יֵדְבֹרֻ	עֵינַיִם	לֹא	יֵדְבֹרֻ
<b>They have mouths</b>		<b>but they speak</b>	<b>not eyes</b>		
H6310	H1992	H3808	H1696	H5869	H1992
					H3808
וְיֵרְאוּ:					
<b>have they but they see</b>					
H7200					

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)