

Psalm 135:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.

Analysis

The idol polemic reaches devastating conclusion: 'They that make them are like unto them: so is every one that trusteth in them.' This principle of spiritual conformity runs throughout Scripture - we become like what we worship. Idol makers share their idols' spiritual deadness: blind, deaf, mute, breathless in any spiritual sense. The Hebrew construction emphasizes exact correspondence: 'like them' (kemohem). Those who trust (batach) in idols place their confidence in emptiness and receive emptiness in return. Romans 1:21-23 develops this theme, showing how rejecting the Creator leads to degraded thinking and worship of created things. The positive corollary appears in 2 Corinthians 3:18: beholding the Lord's glory, believers 'are changed into the same image.' We are transformed into the likeness of whatever commands our deepest trust and devotion. This makes the choice of worship objects eternally consequential.

Historical Context

The principle of becoming like what one worships was understood in ancient religion, where worshipers sought to embody their deity's characteristics through imitation. Israel's prophets turned this insight into judgment: those who worship nothing become nothing. This psychological and spiritual insight anticipates modern observations about how devotion shapes character.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. In what ways do people become like what they worship?
2. How does worshiping the true God transform us into His image?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר כֵּן עֲשִׂיאָה כְּמַוְעָם

H3644

H1961

They that make

H3605

H834

H6213

בָּטָן

בָּטָן:

them are like unto them so is every one that trusteth

H982

H0

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 97:7 (Parallel theme): Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

Psalms 115:8 (Faith): They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.