

Amos 5:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves.

Analysis

But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images (וַיִּשְׂאַתֶּם אֶת סְכֹות מֶלֶךְם וְאֶת כִּיּוֹן צָלְמַיִּכְם)–Moloch (מֶלֶךְ, molech) was the Ammonite deity requiring child sacrifice; Chiun/Kiyyun (כִּיּוֹן, kiyun) likely refers to a star deity, possibly Saturn. **The star of your god, which ye made to yourselves** (פָּנָבָב אֶלְהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם לְכֶם)–they created gods with their own hands, inverting the Creator-creature relationship.

Idolatry always involves exchanging the truth of God for a lie (Romans 1:25), worshiping and serving the creature rather than the Creator. The reference to carrying these idols suggests Israel transported them during wilderness wandering and continued this practice in Canaan—syncretism spanning generations.

Historical Context

Acts 7:43 translates differently: 'Remphan' instead of 'Chiun,' following the Septuagint. Both refer to astral deities. Canaanite religion featured star worship, and Israel repeatedly fell into this syncretism (Deuteronomy 4:19; 2 Kings 23:5). Amos exposes how Israel's worship mixed Yahwism with paganism.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 – Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What modern 'stars' or celebrities do people worship instead of God—following them, imitating them, trusting their wisdom?
2. How does making our own gods—through selective theology or cultural accommodation—repeat Israel's error?
3. Why is syncretism (mixing true worship with false) more dangerous than outright paganism?

Interlinear Text

וְנִשְׁאַתָּה מִן	אִתְּ	מֶלֶךְ מֶלֶךְ	אִתְּ	פִּי אַי
But ye have borne H5375	H853	the tabernacle H5522	H4432	H853 and Chiun H3594
צְלִמְמִיכָּה מִן	אֶשְׁר אֶל הַיְכָה מִן	פּוֹכֵב	עֲשִׂיתָה מִן	לְכָמָן:
your images H6754	the star H3556	of your god H430	H834 which ye made H6213	H0

Additional Cross-References

1 Kings 11:33 (References God): Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

Leviticus 18:21 (References God): And thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech, neither shalt thou profane the name of thy God: I am the LORD.

