

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 (וְנִשְׂאֲתֶם אֶת סִכּוֹת מַלְכֵיכֶם וְאֶת כִּיּוֹן צִלְמֵיכֶם, un'satem et sikkut malkechem v'et kiyun tzalmeichem)—Moloch (מֹלֶךְ, 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** (כּוֹכַב אֱלֹהֵיכֶם אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם לָכֶם, kochav eloheichem asher asitem lachem)—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.

