

Hosea 13:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.

Analysis

Sin multiplied, idols kissing calves: 'And now they sin more and more, and have made them molten images of their silver, and idols according to their own understanding, all of it the work of the craftsmen: they say of them, Let the men that sacrifice kiss the calves.' Sin intensifies: יוספו לחתא (yosifu lachato, they add to sin). They make מתקה (massekah, molten images) from silver, עזבים (atsabbim, idols) according to תבונתם (tevu natam, their understanding). The shocking practice: men sacrificing הוזחתי אדם (hazovchai adam) kiss עגלים (agalim, calves). This demonstrates progressive corruption: multiplying sin, self-designed worship, absurd rituals (humans kissing animal idols). Only Christ ends idolatry, directing worship to Father in truth (John 4:23-24).

Historical Context

The molten silver images references both Jeroboam's golden calves (1 Kings 12:28) and proliferating idols people crafted. 'According to their own understanding' describes autonomous worship—designing gods and rituals to suit preferences rather than submitting to divine revelation. The phrase about 'men that sacrifice kissing calves' is variously interpreted: either 'men who sacrifice' kiss calves, or 'those who sacrifice men' kiss calves (suggesting child sacrifice combined with calf worship). Either way, it's absurd: humans (image-bearers) bowing to animal

images. Archaeological finds include bull iconography and molten metal idols from this period. This demonstrates worship corruption: creating convenient gods rather than serving the true God.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does making idols 'according to their own understanding' demonstrate autonomous rebellion rather than revealed worship?
2. What does humans kissing calf idols reveal about how far idolatry inverts proper order (Creator worshiped by creation)?

Interlinear Text

לְהַם תִּעַשׂ וְלִקְטָן אֲזַנְתָּ וְיָסַרְתָּ הַנָּעַט הַ

H6258

more and more

And now they sin

and have made

H0

H3254

H2398

H6213

מִסְכָּן הַ

מִפְסָף הַ

כְּתַבּוּנָם

עֲצָבָם

them molten images according to their own understanding

H4541

H3701

H8394

and idols

H6091

מְעַשׂ הַ

מְרַשְׁתָּם

כָּל הַ

לְקָם

אָמַר יְמִינָם

all of it the work of the craftsmen

H4639

H2796

H3605

H0

H1992

they say

H559

זְבַח יְ

אָדָם

יְשַׁחַד: עַתֵּל יְמִינָם

that sacrifice of them Let the men

H2076

H120

the calves

H5695

kiss

H5401

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 46:6 (Parallel theme): They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

1 Kings 19:18 (Parallel theme): Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

Hosea 2:8 (Parallel theme): For she did not know that I gave her corn, and wine, and oil, and multiplied her silver and gold, which they prepared for Baal.

Jeremiah 10:4 (Parallel theme): They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

Romans 11:4 (Parallel theme): But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

