

Isaiah 2:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the idols he shall utterly abolish.

Analysis

The stark pronouncement that idols 'shall utterly abolish' (Hebrew 'kalil chaleph'—completely pass away) declares their total eradication. Unlike mere humbling, idols face annihilation—they possess no enduring reality. This eschatological vision anticipates the new heaven and earth where nothing unclean enters (Revelation 21:27). The Reformed understanding that created things have no inherent permanence apart from God's sustaining will finds confirmation here: what displaces God will ultimately vanish.

Historical Context

Despite periodic reforms that removed idols (2 Kings 18:4; 23:4-20), idolatry persistently reemerged. Only eschatological judgment finally eradicates false worship, fulfilled ultimately in Christ's kingdom.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What false gods in our culture appear powerful now but will 'utterly abolish'?

2. How does the certainty of idolatry's final eradication free us from fear of current rival claims to allegiance?

Interlinear Text

וְהָאֱלִילִים	כָּל יוֹלֵךְ	אֶת־הַלְּוִיִּם:
And the idols	he shall utterly	abolish
H457	H3632	H2498

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