

Isaiah 2:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats;

Analysis

In desperation, idolaters cast away their silver and gold idols to 'moles and bats'—creatures dwelling in darkness, emphasizing the idols' worthlessness. What was once cherished for worship is now discarded as useless. This dramatic reversal exposes idolatry's futility when crisis reveals false gods cannot save. The imagery anticipates Jesus' teaching that treasure stored on earth proves worthless (Matthew 6:19-20) and Paul's counting all as refuse compared to Christ (Philippians 3:8).

Historical Context

Silver and gold idols represented significant investment and devotion. Their abandonment to cave-dwelling creatures illustrates the desperation of recognizing too late that idols are impotent.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'silver and gold' idols will we eventually recognize as worthless, better suited for 'moles and bats'?
2. How does present disillusionment with idolatry spare us future desperation?

Interlinear Text

בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	יִשְׁלַךְ	אֶת	אֱלֹהֵי	כֶסֶף	וְאֶת	
In that day	H1931	shall cast	a man	H853	and his idols	of silver	H853
H3117		H7993	H120		H457	H3701	
אֱלֹהֵי	זָהָב	אֲשֶׁר	עָשׂוּ	לָו			
and his idols	of gold	H834	which they made each one for himself	H0			
H457	H2091		H6213				
לְהִשְׁתַּחֲוֹת	פְּרוֹת	פְּרוֹת	וְלַעֲטָלִיפִים:				
to worship	to the moles	to the moles	and to the bats				
H7812	H2661	H2661	H5847				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 30:22 (Parallel theme): Ye shall defile also the covering of thy graven images of silver, and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.

Isaiah 31:7 (Creation): For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin.