

Isaiah 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:

Analysis

The proliferation of idols—'work of their own hands'—indicts manufacturing gods, then worshipping human creation. This absurdity, emphasized by 'that which their own fingers have made,' exposes idolatry's irrationality: bowing to what we've fashioned. Paul later mocks this incoherence (Acts 17:29; Romans 1:23). The Reformed emphasis on Creator-creature distinction highlights that worship must flow from creature to Creator, never inverting this order. Idolatry represents supreme folly: serving what should serve us.

Historical Context

Archaeological discoveries confirm widespread idol production in Iron Age Judah—terracotta figurines, bronze images, and household shrines. Despite covenant monotheism, material idolatry pervaded Israelite religion.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What 'works of our own hands'—careers, families, ministries—do we subtly worship?
2. How does recognizing the absurdity of idolatry help us identify and forsake modern functional gods?

Interlinear Text

וְתָמַל אֲ	אֶרֶץ וְ	אֱלִיל יִם	לַמַּעַשׂ הַ	יָדָיו	יִשְׁתַּחֲוּ וְ
also is full	Their land	of idols	the work	of their own hands	they worship
H4390	H776	H457	H4639	H3027	H7812
לָאֵשׁ רַ	עָשׂ וְ	אֲצָבָעֵתָיו:			
H834	have made	that which their own fingers			
	H6213	H676			

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 9:20 (Worship): And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Isaiah 37:19 (Parallel theme): And have cast their gods into the fire: for they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone: therefore they have destroyed them.

Jeremiah 2:28 (Creation): But where are thy gods that thou hast made thee? let them arise, if they can save thee in the time of thy trouble: for according to the number of thy cities are thy gods, O Judah.