

Isaiah 31:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold (כִּי בַיּוֹם הַהוּא יִמְאַסוּן אִישׁ אֶלִילֵי כֶסֶף וְאֶלִילֵי זָהָב) ki vayom hahu yim'asun ish eleley kaspo ve'eleley zehavo)—each אִישׁ (ish, man) will מְאַסֵּה (ma'as, reject, despise, cast away) his אֶלִילִים (elilim, idols, worthless things). **Which your own hands have made unto you for a sin** (אֲשֶׁר אֲסוּ לָכֶם יָדֵיכֶם חֵטָא, asher asu lakhem yedekhem chet)—which your יָדַיִם (yadayim, hands) made as חֵטָא (chet, sin).

True repentance involves idol-abandonment. The irony: humans fashion gods from precious metals, then worship their own handicraft. Isaiah repeatedly mocks idol-making folly (Isaiah 44:9-20). The idols are expensive (כֶּסֶף, kesef, silver and זָהָב, zahav, gold) but worthless (אֶלִיל, elil, can mean 'nothing, worthless'). Repentance means recognizing that what you made, trusted, and invested in is fundamentally חֵטָא (chet, sin). Conversion involves renouncing former idols (1 Thessalonians 1:9)—whether literal statues or metaphorical false-trust objects (money, success, approval, comfort).

Historical Context

Hezekiah's reforms included destroying idols and high places (2 Kings 18:4). Josiah later intensified this idol-purge (2 Kings 23). At individual and national levels, repentance required physically destroying false gods. In Acts, new converts in

Ephesus burned valuable magic books (Acts 19:19). True turning to God requires turning from idols—not merely mental assent but concrete renunciation.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'silver and gold idols'—valuable but false objects of trust—do you need to 'cast away'?
2. How does recognizing that we create our own idols ('your hands made them') expose the folly of idolatry?
3. What would it look like for you to physically, practically renounce and destroy your functional idols?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	בַּיּוֹם	הַהוּא	יִמְאַסׁוּן	אֶת־יֵשׁ	וְאִלִּילֵי־י	כֶּסֶף־וְ
H3588	For in that day	H1931	shall cast away	every man	and his idols	of silver
	H3117		H3988	H376	H457	H3701
וְאִלִּילֵי־י	זָהָב־וְ	אֲשֶׁר־	עָשׂוּ	לָךְ	יְדֵי־ךָ	
and his idols	of gold	H834	have made	H0	which your own hands	
H457	H2091		H6213		H3027	
חֲטָא׃						
unto you for a sin						
H2399						

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 2:20 (Creation): 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;

Ezekiel 36:25 (Parallel theme): Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

Deuteronomy 7:25 (Parallel theme): The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the LORD thy God.

Hosea 14:8 (Parallel theme): Ephraim shall say, What have I to do any more with idols? I have heard him, and observed him: I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found.