

Isaiah 37:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Hezekiah explains why previous gods failed: "they were no gods, but the work of men's hands, wood and stone." This theological clarity distinguishes YHWH from idols. False gods couldn't save because they don't exist as persons—they're mere human creations. The phrase "therefore they have destroyed them" shows that destruction of idols proves nothing about the true God. This argument cuts the heart of Sennacherib's logic. Hezekiah demonstrates that what happened to idol-worshipers is irrelevant to what God will do for His people.

Historical Context

Idol destruction was common Assyrian practice, demonstrating conquest over enemies and their gods. Hezekiah's theology explains why this proves nothing about YHWH.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do we help others understand the difference between the living God and false religions?
2. What does the impotence of idols teach about where we should place our trust?
3. How does correct theology about God's unique nature strengthen faith during trials?

Interlinear Text

וְנִזְתַּת	אֶת	אֱלֹהִים	בְּאֵשׁ	לְאָכִי
And have cast	H853	for they were no gods	H3588	H3808
H5414		H430	H784	
עַל־אֱלֹהִים	אֵם	מְעַשׁ	יָדִים	עַל־יָדֵם
for they were no gods	H1992	H3588	H4639	H120
H430		H518	H3027	H6086
וְנִזְתַּת	אֶת	מְעַשׁ	יָדִים	עַל־יָדֵם:
and stone	therefore they have destroyed			
H68	H6			

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