

# 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

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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-worshippers is irrelevant to what God will do for His people.

## Historical Context

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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

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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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

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וְנָתַן אֶת	אֱלֹהֵי יָם	בְּאֵשׁ	לֹא כִי
And have cast	for they were no gods	into the fire	
H5414	H430	H784	H3588 H3808
אֱלֹהֵי יָם	כִּי הָיָה	אֲמַר מַעֲשֵׂה הַיָּדִים	אֶת־עֵץ
for they were no gods		but the work	hands of men's wood
H430	H1992 H3588 H518	H4639	H3027 H120 H6086
וְאֶבֶן	וַיִּשְׁמְדוּ:		
and stone	therefore they have destroyed		
H68	H6		

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