

Isaiah 44:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The carpenter stretcheth out his rule; he marketh it out with a line; he fitteth it with planes, and he marketh it out with the compass, and maketh it after the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man; that it may remain in the house.

Analysis

The carpenter measures with a line, marks with compass, planes it, shapes it with compasses, makes it 'after the figure of a man' - human-shaped. The final product 'remains in the house' - static, immobile, powerless. The Hebrew 'tiferet adam' (beauty of a man) suggests they make their god in their own image - the reverse of Genesis.

Historical Context

The detailed craftsman's process - measuring, marking, planing, shaping - contrasts with God who simply speaks creation into existence. Human effort produces human-like results; only God creates truly.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do we make God in our own image rather than being transformed into His?
2. What does it mean that the idol 'remains in the house' - immobile and powerless?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׂר	כַּד	יִתְאַגֵּה	הַזָּ	בְּשָׂלָשׁ
The carpenter	H6086	stretcheth out	his rule	and he marketh it out
H2796		H5186	H6957	H8388
וְיִשְׁעַשְׁ	וְיִתְאַגֵּה	וְבָמְחֹצֵט	וְבְמִקְצָעַ	וְתִּמְעַשְׁ
and maketh	it with planes	with the compass	and he marketh it out	and maketh
H6213	H4741	H4230	H8388	H6213
לְשָׁבֶת	בַּת	אֵד	כְּתַבֵּן	יִתְ
it after the figure	of a man	according to the beauty	of a man	that it may remain
H8403	H376	H8597	H120	H3427
בַּיִתְ				
in the house				
H1004				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:29 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

Romans 1:23 (Parallel theme): And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.