

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

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| חָרַשׁ | עֲצִים | נִטָּה | קוֹ | יִתְּאָרֶה הוּא | בַּשֵּׁרֶד |
| The carpenter | H6086 | stretcheth out | his rule | and he marketh it out | with a line |
| H2796 | | H5186 | H6957 | H8388 | H8279 |
| וַיַּעַשׂ הוּא | בַּמִּקְצָע | וּבַמַּחְוֶה | יִתְּאָרֶה הוּא | וַיַּעַשׂ הוּא | |
| and maketh | it with planes | with the compass | and he marketh it out | and maketh | |
| H6213 | H4741 | H4230 | H8388 | H6213 | |
| כְּתִבְנֵי יֵת | אִישׁ | כְּתִפָּא רֵת | אִדָּם | לִשְׁבֵּת | |
| it after the figure | of a man | according to the beauty | of a man | that it may remain | |
| H8403 | H376 | H8597 | H120 | H3427 | |
| בֵּית: | | | | | |
| 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.