

# Isaiah 44:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He heweth him down cedars, and taketh the cypress and the oak, which he strengtheneth for himself among the trees of the forest: he planteth an ash, and the rain doth nourish it.

## Analysis

The absurdity deepens: the wood for the idol comes from trees God made grow - cypress, oak, ash trees planted by God and watered by rain. The very material used to create false gods comes from the true God's creation. The Hebrew emphasizes divine agency: 'the LORD...doth nourish it.'

## Historical Context

This exposes the parasitic nature of idolatry - it depends on the true God's creation while denying Him. The irony that God's rain grows the trees for idols mocks the entire enterprise.

## Related Passages

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

1. How do people use God's gifts to construct substitutes for God Himself?
2. What does it mean that even the materials for false worship come from the true God?

## Interlinear Text

לְכַתָּה	תְּרֵזָה	אֶלְזָה	לְזָה	אֶלְזָה
He heweth him down	and taketh	the cypress	and the oak	
H5772	H730	H3947	H8645	H437
וַיַּעֲמֹד	בְּעֵץ	לְעֵץ	וְעֵץ	תִּנְعַמֵּד
which he strengtheneth	for himself among the trees	of the forest	he planteth	
H553	H6086	H3293	H5193	
אֵשׁ	שָׁמֶן	נְדָלָה	נְדָלָה	אֵשׁ
an ash	and the rain	doth nourish		
H766	H1653	H1431		

## Additional Cross-References

**Isaiah 40:20** (Parallel theme): He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.

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