

Isaiah 44:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall it be for a man to burn: for he will take thereof, and warm himself; yea, he kindleth it, and baketh bread; yea, he maketh a god, and worshippeth it; he maketh it a graven image, and falleth down thereto.

Analysis

The same wood serves multiple purposes: fuel for warming, fire for baking bread, and material for a god to worship. The casual interchangeability - some for fire, some for worship - exposes the absurdity: what's the difference between the piece that warms and the piece that becomes divine? The Hebrew 'af' (also/even) emphasizes the ridiculous equivalence.

Historical Context

This biting satire shows that the 'god' has no more inherent divinity than firewood. The same tree produces heat, bread, and a deity - all equally products of human manipulation of natural materials.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does treating the divine and the mundane interchangeably reveal idolatry's foolishness?
2. What distinguishes the true God from objects we might elevate to His place?

Interlinear Text

וְהִי הִ	לְאָדָם	לְבַעַר	וְלֵךְ ח	מִמֶּהֱם
H1961	Then shall it be for a man	to burn	for he will take	H1992
	H120	H1197	H3947	
וְיִחַם	אָר	יִשׁ יִקַּ	וְאֶכָּה	לֶחֶם אָר
thereof and warm	H637	himself yea he kindleth	it and baketh	bread H637
H2552		H5400	H644	H3899
יַפְעֵל	אֱלֹ	וְשָׁתָּחוּ	עֲשֵׂה הוּא	כָּסֶל
yea he maketh	a god	and worshipping	it he maketh	it a graven image
H6466	H410	H7812	H6213	H6459
וְסָגַד	לְמֹ:			
and falleth down	H0			
H5456				

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 25:14 (References God): Now it came to pass, after that Amaziah was come from the slaughter of the Edomites, that he brought the gods of the children of Seir, and set them up to be his gods, and bowed down himself before them, and burned incense unto them.