

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

וְכֹל הָעָם
H1961 Then shall it be for a man
 H120

לְבַעַר
H1197 to burn

לְבַעַר
H3947 for he will take

מִבְּמַמָּם

H1992

עַל כָּל
H637 thereof and warm

עַל כָּל
H637 himself yea he kindleth

עַל כָּל
H5400 it and baketh

עַל כָּל
H3899 bread

וְיִפְעַל
H6466 yea he maketh

אֱלֹהִים
H410 a god

וְיִשְׁתַּחֲוו
H7812 and worshippeth

וְיִפְעַל
H6213 it he maketh

וְיִפְעַל
H6459 it a graven image

וְיָלַךְ
H5456 and falleth down

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.