

Isaiah 46:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

Analysis

The absurdity of lavishing gold on a craftsman to 'make it a god' then falling down to worship it exposes sin's irrational madness. The progression (lavish, hire, make, fall down) shows how human effort creates idols that then enslave their creators. This economic critique of idolatry reveals that all false worship involves exchanging true riches (God) for costly counterfeits.

Historical Context

Babylonian goldsmiths were highly skilled artisans, and temple construction employed enormous wealth. Isaiah's contemporary audience would have witnessed elaborate processions of costly images, making this satire particularly pointed.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What modern 'gods' require enormous investment of time, money, or energy yet deliver nothing?

2. How does consumerism mirror this pattern of lavish expenditure on unsatisfying idols?

Interlinear Text

הִזְלִי יָם	זָהָב	מִכַּּיִם	וְכֶסֶף	בַּקָּלָה	וְשָׁקָל לּוֹ	וְשָׂכָר וְ
They lavish	gold	out of the bag	silver	in the balance	and weigh	and hire
H2107	H2091	H3599	H3701	H7070	H8254	H7936
צוּרָף	וַיַּעַשׂ הוּא	אֵל ל	יִסְגְּדוּ וְ	אֵף	וְשִׁתְּחוּ:	
a goldsmith	and he maketh	it a god	they fall down	H637	yea they worship	
H6884	H6213	H410	H5456		H7812	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:29 (References God): 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.