

# Jeremiah 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

## Analysis

This verse pronounces judgment on idols: 'They are vanity, and the work of errors.' 'hevel' (חֶבֶל), vanity, vapor, nothing) again dismisses idols as non-entities. 'Work of errors' (ma'aseh ta'tu'im, מְעַשֶּׂה תְּאַתְּעִים) suggests mockery, delusion, or deception—idols are products of confused thinking. 'In the time of their visitation they shall perish.' The Hebrew paqad (פָּקַד, visitation) here means judgment, reckoning. When God judges, idols prove helpless—they cannot save themselves, much less their worshippers. They 'perish' (yovedu) while YHWH, the everlasting King (v. 10), endures forever.

## Historical Context

When Babylon fell to Persia (539 BC), its gods proved powerless. When Persia fell to Greece, their gods vanished. Every empire's collapse exposed its gods' impotence. Archaeological evidence shows idol destruction during conquests—invaders melted them for metal or broke them for sport. The gods could not save themselves.

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does the promise that idols will 'perish in their visitation' mean for those who trust them?
2. How have historical events confirmed the transience of human-made 'gods'?

## Interlinear Text

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פָּנָצְתִּים בְּעֵת פְּגֻלָּת מִשְׁעָנָת יְמֵי מְעֵשׂ הָנָדָא בְּלִי מִתְּמִדָּה  
They are vanity and the work of errors in the time of their visitation  
H1892 H4639 H8595 H6256 H6486

אָבֹדִים  
they shall perish  
H6

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 41:24** (Parallel theme): Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you.

**Jeremiah 14:22** (Parallel theme): Are there any among the vanities of the Gentiles that can cause rain? or can the heavens give showers? art not thou he, O LORD our God? therefore we will wait upon thee: for thou hast made all these things.

**Jeremiah 51:18** (Parallel theme): They are vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

**Jeremiah 8:19** (Parallel theme): Behold the voice of the cry of the daughter of my people because of them that dwell in a far country: Is not the LORD in Zion? is not her king in her? Why have they provoked me to anger with their graven images, and with strange vanities?

**Jeremiah 8:12** (Parallel theme): Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

**Zechariah 13:2** (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.

**Jonah 2:8** (Parallel theme): They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy.

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