

# Jeremiah 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.

## Analysis

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This verse continues describing idol manufacture: 'They deck it with silver and with gold.' The Hebrew kesheph (קְשֵׁפָה, silver) and zahav (זָהָב, gold) indicate precious metal overlay making the idol impressive. 'They fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.' The Hebrew masmerim (מָסְמֵרִים, nails) and maqqaboth (מָקְבּוֹת, hammers) reveal the idol's instability—it must be fastened to prevent falling! A god that must be nailed down to stand upright is no god. The irony is devastating: worshippers bow before an object that would fall over without human support.

## Historical Context

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Ancient idol construction often involved wooden cores overlaid with precious metals. Temple inventories from Mesopotamia record gold and silver weights used for divine statues. The need to fasten idols for stability appears in other biblical passages (Isaiah 40:19-20, 41:7). Archaeological discoveries of fallen idols in destroyed temples confirm their material fragility.

## Related Passages

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

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What does an idol's need to be nailed down reveal about its inability to save or help?
2. How do we 'fasten' our modern idols to keep them from falling—props and supports for things that cannot stand on their own?

## Interlinear Text

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וְמִקְבֵּב וְתַ	בְּמִסְמָר וְתַ	בְּצֵבָע וְ	בְּצֵבָע וְ	בְּצֵבָע וְ
it with silver	and with gold	They deck	it with nails	and with hammers
H3701	H2091	H3302	H4548	H4717
דָּלְלָה וְלֹא יִפְרַק	דָּלְלָה וְלֹא יִפְרַק			
they fasten	that it move			
H2388	H3808	H6328		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 46:7** (Parallel theme): They bear him upon the shoulder, they carry him, and set him in his place, and he standeth; from his place shall he not remove: yea, one shall cry unto him, yet can he not answer, nor save him out of his trouble.

**Isaiah 44:12** (Parallel theme): The smith with the tongs both worketh in the coals, and fashioneth it with hammers, and worketh it with the strength of his arms: yea, he is hungry, and his strength faileth: he drinketh no water, and is faint.

**Psalms 115:4** (Parallel theme): Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

**Psalms 135:15** (Parallel theme): The idols of the heathen are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.