

Psalm 97:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

Analysis

The shame (bosh) of idol worshipers stems from trusting in powerless objects rather than the living God. 'Graven images' (pesel) are carved representations devoid of life, power, or reality. The command for 'all gods' (elohim) to worship Yahweh may refer to angelic beings (as in Hebrews 1:6, which quotes this verse regarding Christ) or sarcastically to false gods bowing before the true God. This verse's New Testament application to Christ's incarnation demonstrates His deity —He receives the worship due to Yahweh alone.

Historical Context

Israel constantly battled syncretism and idolatry. This psalm confronts all false worship with Yahweh's supremacy, a message Gentile converts to Christianity also needed.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What modern 'idols' (career, comfort, approval) do people trust in that will ultimately bring shame?
2. How does Christ's deity, affirmed by applying this verse to Him in Hebrews 1:6, strengthen your worship of Him?

Interlinear Text

בָּסָרְבָּלְלָה יְמָנָה	כָּל	עַבְדִּים	בָּסָרְבָּלְלָה יְמָנָה
Confounded	H3605	be all they that serve	graven images
H954		H5647	H6459
themselves of idols		worship	him all ye gods
H457		H7812	H430

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 1:6 (Worship): And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Jeremiah 10:14 (Parallel theme): Every man is brutish in his knowledge: every founder is confounded by the graven image: for his molten image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.

Isaiah 42:17 (References God): They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.

Exodus 20:4 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

Leviticus 26:1 (References God): Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: for I am the LORD your God.

