

Exodus 32:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

Analysis

Aaron's immediate compliance without protest reveals weak leadership and fear of man. The request for golden earrings (נִזְמֵי הַזָּהָב, nizmei hazahav) ironically uses jewelry likely plundered from Egypt (Ex 12:35-36) to create an idol. The earrings may have been Egyptian amulets, making their use doubly idolatrous. Aaron's passive construction 'Break off' suggests he tried to shift responsibility, yet he actively facilitated the sin rather than standing firm like Moses would have.

Historical Context

Aaron, Moses' brother and spokesman, held the highest authority in Moses' absence. His failure demonstrates how even those called to ministry can compromise under pressure.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. When have you facilitated sin rather than standing against popular opinion?

2. How does fear of man cause spiritual leaders to compromise God's standards?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלֶיָּהֶם	אָהֳרֹן	פָּרְקוּ	נִזְמִי	הַזֶּה ב
said		And Aaron	unto them Break off	earrings	the golden
H559	H413	H175	H6561	H5141	H2091
אֲשֶׁר	בְּאָזְנֵי	נְשִׁיכֶם	בְּנִיכֶם	וּבִנְיֹתֵיכֶם	
H834	which are in the ears	of your wives	of your sons	and of your daughters	
	H241	H802	H1121	H1323	
אֵלַי:	וְהָבֵי יָאֵו				
	and bring				
	H413				
	H935				

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