

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

פָּזָב בְּ נִזְמָן | אֲלֹתָם אַבָּר | פְּרַקְלָנוּ
the golden earrings unto them Break off And Aaron said
H2091 H5141 H6561 H175 H413 H559

אֲשֶׁר בְּנֵי נְשֵׁי בְּנֵי אֶנְתִּיכָּם |
and of your daughters of your sons of your wives which are in the ears
H1323 H1121 H802 H241 H834

אֲלֵיכָם | וְבָבְרָא
and bring H413 H935

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