

Exodus 32:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

Analysis

Aaron's claim וַאֲשֶׁלֶכְהוּ בָאֵשׁ וַיֵּצֵא הָעֵגֶל (va'ashlikhehu va'esh vayyetze ha'egel hazeh, I cast it into the fire, and out came this calf) is a blatant lie contradicting verse 4's detailed account. The verb יָצָא (yatza, came out) suggests the calf emerged spontaneously, like a miracle—absurd given gold's properties. This represents excuse-making at its worst: claiming passivity when you were active, invoking 'mysterious' causation for deliberate choices, minimizing sin's seriousness through fabrication. Aaron's lie compounds his original sin with deception, showing how initial compromise leads to deeper corruption.

Historical Context

Aaron fashioned the calf with a graving tool (v4), actively creating the idol. His denial parallels Adam's excuse-making (Gen 3:12) and prefigures all human attempts to avoid accountability through false narratives.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do you construct false narratives to minimize your role in sin?
2. What does Aaron's lie teach about sin's progression from deed to denial?

Interlinear Text

וַאֲמַרְ	לָהֶם	לֵמִי	זָה ב	הַתִּפְּךְ קוֹ
And I said	H0	H4310	unto them Whosoever hath any gold	let them break
H559			H2091	H6561
וַתֵּנוּ	לִי	וַאֲשַׁלְכֵהוּ	בָּאֵשׁ	וַיָּצֵא
it off So they gave	H0	it me then I cast	it into the fire	and there came out
H5414		H7993	H784	H3318
הַזֶּה:	הַעֵי גֹל			
H2088	this calf			
	H5695			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 32:4 (Parallel theme): And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.