

Exodus 32:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

Analysis

Moses saw the people were פָּרָעָה (parua, naked/unrestrained/broken loose), a term suggesting wild disorder, possibly literal nakedness in pagan revelry. Aaron had פְּרָעָה (per'ah, let them loose), using a causative form—he actively permitted their unrestrained behavior. The phrase לְשִׁמְצָה בְּקָרְבֵּן (le-shimtzah be-qameihem, for a derision among their enemies) indicates Israel became a mockery, their shameful conduct visible to surrounding nations, damaging God's reputation. This public disgrace worse than private sin because it blasphemes God's name before pagans (Rom 2:24).

Historical Context

The spectacle of God's redeemed people engaging in pagan debauchery would have delighted Israel's enemies. Corporate sin brings reproach on God's name among watching nations.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does your unrestrained behavior bring God's name into disrepute before unbelievers?
2. What responsibility do leaders bear for restraining evil versus permitting 'freedom'?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּרְא	מִשְׁא	אֶת	בָּעֵם	כִּי	פָּרָעַ הָ
saw	And when Moses	H853	that the people	H3588	had made them naked
H7200	H4872		H5971		H6544
וְאַתָּה	פָּרָעַ הָ	אֶת־אַרְ	לְשִׁמְאָזַת		
H1931	H3588	had made them naked	for Aaron	unto their shame	
	H6544		H175	H8103	
בְּנֵי מִצְרַיִם:					
among their enemies					
	H6965				

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 47:3 (Parallel theme): Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

Revelation 16:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

Micah 1:11 (Parallel theme): Pass ye away, thou inhabitant of Saphir, having thy shame naked: the inhabitant of Zaanan came not forth in the mourning of Beth-ezel; he shall receive of you his standing.