

Exodus 32:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

Analysis

The people's unanimous participation (kol-ha'am, all the people) shows mob mentality's power. They willingly surrendered personal adornment for corporate idolatry—a perverse 'offering' contrasted with later tabernacle donations. This collective action reveals how quickly monotheism can degenerate into paganism when visible symbols replace faith in the invisible God. Their eagerness demonstrates the human heart's tendency toward tangible religion over spiritual worship.

Historical Context

This immediate, universal compliance suggests Egyptian religious practices had deeply influenced Israel during their 430-year sojourn, despite witnessing Yahweh's superiority over Egypt's gods.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'golden earrings' (cherished possessions) are you tempted to sacrifice for false security?
2. How does group pressure lead you to participate in spiritual compromise?

Interlinear Text

אֲשֶׁר פָּזָב נִזְמָן בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְתִפְרַח
the golden earrings brought unto Aaron
the people And all the people brake off
H834 H2091 H5141 H853 H5971 H3605
H6561

אֶת אֶל יְבִיאוּ מִבְּאֶזְנֵי
unto Aaron them brought and which were in their ears
Aaron unto them brought and which were in their ears
H175 H413 H935 H241

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