

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 (כָּל-הָעָם, 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

Psalms 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

וַתִּפְּרֹקוּ brake off H6561	כָּל H3605	וְכָל And all the people H5971	אֶת H853	נִזְמֵי earrings H5141	בַּהַזָּה the golden H2091	אֲשֶׁר H834
בְּאָזְנוֹתָם which were in their ears H241	וַיָּבֵאוּ and brought H935	אֶל H413	אֶהֱרֹן: them unto Aaron H175			

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org