

Exodus 32:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

Analysis

The people 'rose early' (וַיַּשְׁכִּמוּ, vayyashkimu) showing enthusiasm for false worship contrasted with sluggishness toward God. They offered עֹלֹת (olot, burnt offerings) and שְׁלָמִים (shelamim, peace offerings)—legitimate sacrificial terminology applied to illegitimate worship. The phrase 'sat down to eat and drink' followed by 'rose up to play' (וַיִּשְׂעוּ, vezachu) uses a word suggesting immoral revelry (same root as Isaac's name, but here meaning carousing or sensual play), indicating the worship degenerated into drunken, possibly sexual, pagan celebration like Egyptian festivals.

Historical Context

This scene mirrors Canaanite and Egyptian fertility festivals where worship included feasting, drunkenness, and sexual immorality. Paul references this event in 1 Corinthians 10:7 as a warning against idolatry.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How quickly does your worship degenerate when not centered on God's holiness?
2. What role does sensual indulgence play in spiritual compromise?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשׁוּב יְמֹוֹ	מִמָּחָר ת	וַעֲלֹו	עַל ת	וַיָּבִיאוּ	
And they rose up early	on the morrow	and offered	burnt offerings	and brought	
H7925	H4283	H5927	H5930	H5066	
שְׁלָמֵי יָם	וַיֵּשֶׁב	הָעָם	לֵאכֹל ל	וַיִּשְׁתּוּ	וַיָּקֶם מוֹ
peace offerings	sat	and the people	down to eat	and to drink	and rose up
H8002	H3427	H5971	H398	H8354	H6965
לְצַחֵק:					
to play					
H6711					

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 10:7 (Parallel theme): Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

Numbers 25:2 (Sacrifice): And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.