

Judges 6:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down.

Analysis

God commands Gideon to take his father's bull ('thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old') and destroy the altar of Baal and the Asherah pole beside it, then build a proper altar to Yahweh on the stronghold's top and offer the bull as burnt offering using wood from the cut-down Asherah. This complex instruction addresses multiple issues:

1. reforming family/clan worship
2. removing idolatry at its source
3. establishing proper Yahweh worship
4. demonstrating covenant faithfulness publicly.

The 'second bullock of seven years old' likely refers to a specific bull or may indicate a seven-year-old bull suitable for sacrifice.

Historical Context

Baal worship had infiltrated even Gideon's family—his father Joash maintained a Baal altar and Asherah pole. Baal, the Canaanite storm/fertility god, and Asherah, the mother goddess represented by wooden poles or living trees, dominated Canaanite religion. That Gideon's family participated in this syncretism shows the depth of Israel's apostasy during the judges period. The command to use Asherah

wood for the burnt offering symbolizes the complete destruction of idolatry and its appropriation for true worship.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God requiring Gideon to address family idolatry before national deliverance demonstrate the priority of personal/family reformation?
2. What idols in your family or personal life require confrontation before God can use you for broader kingdom work?
3. Why does God command using the Asherah wood for sacrifice rather than simply destroying it?

Interlinear Text

וְבָנָה	אֶלְעָזֶר	מִזְבֵּח	לְיְהוָה	עַל	אֱלֹהִים	רְאשָׁם	זֶה
And build	an altar	unto the LORD	thy God			upon the top	of this rock
H1129	H4196	H3068	H430		H5921	H7218	H4581
בְּמָעָרָךְ	הַלְּקֹחַ	הַפְּרָא	אֶת	וְלַקְחַתָּה	יְשָׁנֵן	וְפָעַלְתָּ	יְתַהֲרֵךְ
in the ordered place	and take	the second		bullock	the second	and offer	
H2088	H4634	H3947	H853	H6499	H8145	H5927	
עֹלֵל	בְּגַעַת	בְּאֵשׁ	רְאֵשׁ	תְּכַרְתָּה:			
a burnt sacrifice	with the wood	of the grove	which thou shalt cut down				
H5930	H6086	H842	H834				H3772

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 14:40 (Parallel theme): Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 14:33 (References God): For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

2 Samuel 24:18 (Sacrifice): And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite.

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