

Judges 6:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built.

Analysis

Morning reveals the night's work: Baal's altar destroyed, the Asherah cut down, and a new altar built with the burnt offering consumed. The passive construction 'was cast down... was cut down... was offered' emphasizes the completed facts rather than identifying actors. The town's discovery of these revolutionary acts will provoke the crisis of verses 29-32. That the burnt offering was already consumed indicates Gideon completed the entire sequence—destruction of idolatry, construction of proper altar, and acceptable sacrifice. This thoroughness demonstrates genuine covenant faithfulness despite fearful execution.

Historical Context

Burnt offerings (olah, עֹלָה) were completely consumed on the altar, symbolizing total consecration to God (Leviticus 1). Using the second bull as specified and Asherah wood as fuel showed exact obedience to divine instructions. The discovery by 'men of the city' early in the morning suggests regular visits to the Baal altar, confirming widespread participation in this false worship. That they immediately recognized the religious revolution's significance shows how central this idolatry was to community life.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Gideon's complete obedience—destruction of idolatry AND establishment of proper worship—model thorough reformation?
2. What does the burnt offering's complete consumption symbolize about total consecration to God?
3. Why is it insufficient merely to remove false worship without establishing true worship in its place?

Interlinear Text

וַיָּשָׁכֶּ יָמֹוֹ	אֲנִישׁ י	הָעִיר	בַּבֹּקֶר	וְהָיָה	נִתְּצָה	
arose early	H376	of the city	in the morning	H2009	was cast down	
H7925		H5892	H1242		H5422	
הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	הַבַּעַל	וְהָאֵשֶׁכָּה	אֲשֶׁר	עַל יוֹ	כָּךְ תִּהְיֶה	וְאֵת
behold the altar	of Baal	and the grove	H834	H5921	was cut down	H853
H4196	H1168	H842			H3772	
הַפָּר	הַשֵּׁנִי	הָעֹלָה	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ		
bullock	that was by it and the second	was offered	H5921	behold the altar		
H6499	H8145	H5927		H4196		
הַבְּנוּי:						
that was built						
H1129						