

# 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

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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

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Burnt offerings (olah, ὥγι) 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

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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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

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גַּתֵּזׁ וְהַבָּבָרֶבֶת אֲנָשָׁי תַּשְׁכַּי מִזְרָחַ  
arose early of the city in the morning was cast down  
H7925 H376 H5892 H1242 H2009 H5422

וְאֵשֶׁת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ כְּתָה עַל יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר וְאֶשְׁתַּחַת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ כְּתָה עַל יְהוָה  
behold the altar of Baal and the grove was cut down  
H4196 H1168 H842 H834 H5921 H3772 H853

בָּעֵל הַמִּזְבֵּחַ כְּתָה עַל הַשְׁנִי כְּתָה עַל הַשְׁנִי  
bullock that was by it and the second was offered  
H6499 H8145 H5921 H4196

בָּבָרֶבֶת  
that was built  
H1129