

Judges 6:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.

Analysis

The townspeople investigate: 'Who hath done this thing?' Their question seeks to identify and punish the perpetrator of what they view as sacrilege against Baal. After inquiring and searching (vayidreshu vayevekshu, וַיִּדְרֹשׁוּ וַיִּבְקְשׁוּ, 'they inquired and sought'), they conclude 'Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing.' The verbs suggest thorough investigation—questioning witnesses, examining evidence, following leads. Their determination to find the culprit reveals the seriousness they attach to Baal worship. The identification of Gideon by name and patronymic (son of Joash) formally designates him for judgment.

Historical Context

Baal worship enjoyed civic protection and popular participation, making attacks on Baal altars acts of religious sedition threatening community cohesion. Ancient Near Eastern cities often identified strongly with patron deities—attacking the god's altar insulted the entire community. The investigation's thoroughness suggests either witnesses saw suspicious activity or evidence pointed clearly to Joash's household. Gideon's act was deliberate reformation, not anonymous vandalism.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the community's vigorous defense of false worship expose the spiritual blindness of idolatry?
2. What modern institutions or ideologies enjoy similar civic protection and popular support despite opposing biblical truth?
3. How should Christians respond when confronting idolatry that enjoys widespread social acceptance?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמְרוּ	אֶחָד	אֶל	רֵעֵהוּ	מִי	עָשָׂה	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה
And they said	one		to another		Who hath done	this thing	
H559	H376	H413	H7453	H4310	H6213	H1697	H2088
וַיִּדְרְשׁוּ	וַיִּבְקֹשׁוּ	וַיֹּאמְרוּ	גִּדְעוֹן	בֶּן	יֹאָשׁ		
And when they enquired	and asked	And they said	Gideon	the son	of Joash		
H1875	H1245	H559	H1439	H1121	H3101		
עָשָׂה	הַדָּבָר	הַזֶּה:					
Who hath done	this thing						
H6213	H1697	H2088					