

# Judges 6:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.

## Analysis

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The townspeople demand Gideon's execution: 'Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it.' Their capital charge—desecrating Baal's sacred sites—shows how thoroughly Israel had abandoned Yahweh. No one appeals to Mosaic law forbidding idolatry; instead, destroying idolatry is treated as criminal. This inversion of values typifies the judges period: 'every man did that which was right in his own eyes' (Judges 17:6, 21:25). The mob's demand for death parallels later Jewish leaders demanding Christ's crucifixion—both cases involve the righteous threatened by those defending religious error.

## Historical Context

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Capital punishment for religious offenses was standard in ancient Near Eastern cultures. Attacking a deity's altar was viewed as attacking the deity itself, meriting death to appease divine wrath and deter others. That the community mobilized so quickly shows Baal worship's entrenchment. The demand directed at Joash makes him responsible for his son's actions under ancient Near Eastern household accountability—the patriarch must deliver the offender or face collective punishment.

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does the mob's demand for Gideon's death illustrate spiritual warfare's reality when confronting entrenched idolatry?
2. What does their prioritizing Baal over family loyalty reveal about idolatry's power to corrupt natural affections?
3. How should Christians respond when obedience to God provokes hostility from family, community, or culture?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּנֶכְךָ	אֶת	הוֹצֵא	א	יֹאֲשָׁא	שׁ	אֶל	הָעִיר	אֲנֹשִׁי	י	וַיֹּאמֶר	ו
thy son	H853	Bring out	H3318	unto Joash	H3101	of the city	H413	H376	said	H559	
וְכִי	יְהִי	עַל	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ	ח	אֶת	נִתַּן	כִּי	יָמָּוֶת	ת		
H3588	of Baal	H1168	the altar	H4196	H853	because he hath cast down	H5422	H3588	that he may die	H4191	
עָלָיו:	אֲשֶׁר	הָאֵשֶׁךְ	ה	כֶּךָ	ת						
H5921	H834	the grove	H842	and because he hath cut down	H3772						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Acts 26:9** (Parallel theme): I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

**Philippians 3:6** (Parallel theme): Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

