

# Numbers 25:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.

## Analysis

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The Moabite women 'called the people unto the sacrifices of their gods: and the people did eat, and bowed down to their gods.' Social connection led to religious compromise led to full idolatry. This progression illustrates how seemingly innocent association can draw believers into serious sin. Sexual attraction combined with cultural participation lowered defenses against idolatrous worship.

## Historical Context

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These 'sacrifices' likely included meals eaten before idols (1 Corinthians 10:20-21 addresses similar practice). Eating food offered to idols expressed fellowship with demons. This incident became proverbial warning for New Testament church facing similar temptations (Revelation 2:14).

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. What seemingly innocent associations or relationships are drawing you toward spiritual compromise?

2. How can you maintain cultural engagement without being drawn into religious syncretism?

## Interlinear Text

בָּעֵם	וַיִּשְׁתַּחַווּ	לְאֱלֹהִים
and the people	and bowed down	of their gods

## Additional Cross-References

**1 Corinthians 10:20** (Sacrifice): But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

**Exodus 20:5** (References God): Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

**Psalms 106:28** (Sacrifice): They joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead.

**Joshua 22:17** (Parallel theme): Is the iniquity of Peor too little for us, from which we are not cleansed until this day, although there was a plague in the congregation of the LORD,

**Hosea 9:10** (Parallel theme): I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time: but they went to Baal-peor, and separated themselves unto that shame; and their abominations were according as they loved.