

EXODUS: The Person, Promise, and Power of God

Exodus 32, pt 1 – Israel’s Great Sin

“³⁰ The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”
³¹ So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold.”
Exodus 32:30-31

What Happened: v. 1-6

32 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” ² So Aaron said to them, “Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” ³ So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord.” ⁶ And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

The actual sin of the people was _____. They requested and worshipped a _____.

Three factors appear primary:

- 1) Moses’ prolonged absence
- 2) The onset of _____ and impatience
- 3) The pathetic non-leadership of _____ (and by extension, Hur and the 70 elders)

Moses, the undisputed leader of the people, had been gone for an indeterminate amount of time. While he is on the mountain meeting with God, receiving the final directions for the Tabernacle, the worship of the Israelites, and their Sabbath rest in him, the people down below are growing restless.

They demand that Aaron step in and assume leadership and make for them a God they can _____. So Aaron very obediently made the only kind of “god” he knew how to make: a golden idol fashioned in the shape of a young bull.

Presumably this golden calf was made in form of an _____ deity – likely the Apis bull, considered to the manifestation of _____, the creator god worshipped at Memphis in lower Egypt. (According to John Mackey)

Consider the **painful ironies**:

In their rebellion, Israel sins in such a way that will cause them to experience the seriousness of God's call to _____ and the Lord's refusal to _____ regarding His commands.

In this tragic act, they violate the _____ commandments:

- 1) You shall have no other gods before Me.
- 2) You shall not make idols.
- 3) You shall not take the name of the _____ your God in vain.

But their sin was _____ as well.

"Their use of the gold contradicted the redeeming work of the Lord, as represented by the tabernacle; the making of the image contradicted his word; and calling it by his name contradicted his revealed nature."¹

Consider **the great cost**:

- v. 20
- v. 28
- v. 35

What Happens:

⁶Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play."

¹¹Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. ¹²Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

1 Corinthians 10:6-7,11-12

The anatomy of their great sin:

- 1) They _____ God's _____. This is sin at its most basic level.
- 2) They _____ God's _____.
- 3) They _____ a 'god' that suited their broken nature.

"The cow gave no law and demanded no obedience. It had no wrath or justice or holiness to be feared. It was deaf, dumb, and impotent. But at least it could not intrude on their fun and call them to judgment. This was a religion designed by men, practiced by men, and ultimately useless for men." (R.C. Sproul)

- 4) They _____ God His _____, _____ and _____.
- 5) They _____ to their _____.

¹ Alec Motyer, *The Message of Exodus: The Days of Our Pilgrimage*, 294.

“Moses, go down ...” - v. 7-10

⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. ⁸ They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” ⁹ And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you.”

God is _____. All sin is before His face.

The people were “corrupt” = marred and ruined to the point of _____.

The people were “stiff-necked”. This more serious than just “stubborn”. They were _____ to _____ to God.

The right and _____ sentence from a _____ God to a now _____ people was/is _____.

God states that He will _____ Israel and _____ with Moses.

Moses surely must be in _____.

“The religious element in man's nature was not eradicated by sin, but while every faculty of his mind and every instinct of his nature is debased and perverted, man's complete ruin and his greatest guilt are seen in the degradation of those same faculties, originally given as the means of worshiping God. The endowments which placed him above all other creatures, now sinks him beneath them. ”

From *Gleaning From Exodus*, A.W. Pink, p 321

Next week: Exodus 32, pt. 2 - God's Amazing Grace