

Ex 32:1 ¶ "And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him. 2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me. 3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron. 4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD. 6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play."

Moses is not there giving them daily instructions, so they say forget Moses, we don't know if he is coming back or not, and they demand of Aaron to make them gods to go before them. They have quickly forgotten the great miracles that God did to bring them out of Egypt to where they are now. In forty days and nights, they have forgotten their great fear they knew when God came down upon Mount Sinai, and how they trembled with fear and stood afar off, begging Moses to be the mediator between them and God. Israel has regarded Moses as a god. We know this for they say here "***the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt.***"

The cloud of God has remained in their sight upon the mount all this time, and yet they turn from God to idolatry. They have totally forgotten, in less than forty days and nights, that God delivered them out of Egypt, not Moses. How do we know it was less than forty days? They had to have time to collect all the gold and time for Aaron to make a casting mold to make the golden calf. Then they needed some time for Aaron to finish the image with the graving tool to give them a finished product. We see in ***Ex 24:18 "And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights."*** All this was completed before Moses came down from the mount. After they sacrificed, and began partying, is when God sent Moses down from the mountain.

What lesson can we learn from the Israelites and their turning to idolatry? If we are not very careful, we will forget out first love when Jesus was manifested to us. We are apt to view preachers, practices, and buildings, as gods, instead of assembling and worshipping our God, and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The building to which a church body is associated is called by scripture the house of God, or the church in thy house. It is so easy to forget that going to church is not just a ritual to go through with. Even when God is working mightily through his ministers, when people leave the assembled church body, we are easily distracted. Many do this because they think they have nothing to do as a disciple of Christ. Thus, their minds being idle, they begin to turn to idolatry, just as Israel has done here in the absence of Moses. This is one reason that everyone, who is a member of a church body, should know they have some specific tasks to do in their life as a child of God, which will keep them occupied and in remembrance of God.

What task are God's people charged to be doing?

- First, we are charged in ***Mt 22:37 "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."***
- Second, we are charged in ***Mt 22:39 "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."***
- Thirdly, we are charged in ***Lu 21:36 "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."***
- Also, we are charged in ***Heb 13:15-16; 12 "Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. 13 Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. 14 For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. 15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. 16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."***

Some other things we can be doing: Always be praying for the continuance of the Lord's blessing in all our lives: Help the poor and needy: Read and study the King James bible, by which you may know when the truth of

the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached, and you can recognize when the devil has changed the word of God to entrap you in his snares: Fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ: Admonish one another if needed, but more importantly, build up one another in the Lord, so there is no need for admonition. These are just a few of the duties that require the discipline of the body, and of the mind, of children of God.

Think about this: The cloud of God's presence is still in plain sight of Israel: yet Israel has idle minds because they are not exercising daily discipline of their minds and bodies. God requires us to daily discipline ourselves to the service of our Saviour and Lord. This is why regular attendance of church meetings, and daily study of the word of God, are necessary task of God's people.

Israel has forgotten the heavy burdens they were under in Egypt, which is what made them remember the true God and cry out to Him for deliverance. God heard their prayers and delivered them out of Egypt. This is the great danger that children of God face. We quickly forget the burden of the load of sin, which bore us down and caused us to cry out to God for His salvation. We easily forget the joy and love for God we felt, and had, when we realized that Jesus had accomplished our salvation on the cross in the new birth. Therefore, as Israel quickly forgets God and asks Aaron to make them gods, we just as easily forget our God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. If we are not actively discipling our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls, to diligently seek after God and our Saviour. When we forget God: we do like Israel and return to a life of idolatry, which is the way we lived before the new birth.

This is a reminder to us: serving God and living the life of a true disciple of Christ Jesus, takes lots of work. It requires discipline of our actions, even down to directing our thoughts to God and godliness, which if we do, we will not be lured away from God, by listening to our inherited fallen nature, which we got from fallen Adam.

Israel cannot see Moses physically: we cannot see our Saviour in his physical body. We do not serve Christ by physical sight but by faith. Jesus manifests himself to us, through revelation from his word of truth, to strengthen our faith and trust in His finished work. Emphatically, the finished work of Jesus has delivered us out of Egypt's land. Just as Israel is being led to the land of promise: We are being led to an eternal land of promise, by the indwelling Holy Spirit from the time of our new birth. It is a reminder to not make gods of preachers, church leaders, people, and buildings, as Israel did with Moses. We are worship the true and living God, and Him only.

2 "And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me." Aaron, who is supposed to be tending the flock in Moses's absence, tells the people to break off the golden earrings and bring them to him. These earrings are indicative of worldly investment. What has that got to do with us today? When church leaders are not doing their job and tending to the flock of God, they are, in effect, telling the people to tell us how you want church to be, and they mix their wants together to give the people what they want, by disregarding the Word of God. This is making idols in their hearts.

We know this is true because denominations, and individual churches, are accepting, and promoting, things that are an abomination to God. They have cast aside the discipline of God's word of truth. Their leaders are preaching to please people with itching ears. We do note; Aaron said, "**Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.**" Which was his feeble effort to remind them of their God. However, he has already given them a god they can see, which is obeying the people, rather than directing them back to God.

There is a warning to us to know the whole truth of God, by which we may daily purge our hearts and minds of fleshly lust and desires, as seen in **2Ti 2:21; 19 ¶ "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. 21 If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 22 ¶ Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 23 But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. 24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, 25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; 26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."** This text is easily understood.

Think about **2Ti 2:26** "**And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**" Who are those "**who are taken captive by him** (the devil) **at his will.**" Those who oppose themselves? Who are those who oppose themselves? Those who deny their duty of daily discipline of themselves to pay homage to God, which is exercising an idle mind. What is an idle mind? When you are not spending your time bringing glory to God. When you have not devoted yourself wholly to discipleship to Jesus Christ. When you do not discipline yourself to read and study the word of God. Idle minds can be defined as those, who are playing church and not worshipping God. I am sure that we all, from experience, can list many other things that are defined by the Word of God as idle minds.

Isn't it amazing how God can reveal our Jesus, our Saviour, to us from the Old Testament scriptures? But preacher: you are preaching from the Old Testament, and we live by the New Testament today. Jesus tells us in **Joh 5:39** "**Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.**" Since the New Testament had not been written yet, we know that Jesus was speaking of the Old Testament. Sometimes, we must pray hard, study and search, to find our Saviour in the Old Testament, but rest assured he is always there. Sometimes, it is as if the words we read just jump off the page, as a picture and emblem of Jesus. We praise God, that through the Holy Spirit power of illumination, God reveals the truths of His Word to us from his Word of Truth, the whole King James bible.

We pray that today, God has fulfilled his promise seen in **Heb 10:16** "**This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.**" Unlike Israel, we are not following the law ordinances. We are simply walking by faith and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ, who has already completed the eternal remission of our sins and given us eternal life in Christ. May we ever be found faithful to God in all that we do, which will bring glory, and honor, to the name of our God, and our Saviour, as seen in **Mt 5:16** "**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**" Thank you, King Jesus, for your mercy, your grace, and your continual presence of the Holy Spirit, being manifested in our lives daily. We pray these words of truth will be fruitful, through the illumination of the Holy Spirit in our lives. We ask thy blessings on the preached word of truth, in the name of Jesus, the Christ, Amen!