

Exodus Chapter 32 Commentary

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!

7 ¶ "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff necked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation."

God tells Moses "**Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:**" We can look at "**thy people**" in several ways. First, as though they are Moses's chosen nation of people who he has delivered from Egypt, which we know is not true. Or simply, as Moses is of the nation of Israel, thus they are thy people. In the context in which it is stated, it lends to God saying: the nation Israel is thy people, and you led them out of Egypt, because I chose you, Moses, to be their leader. Thus, God is saying you are responsible for them. Very much like the pastor of a church body bears responsibility for the congregation in his heart.

God tells Moses: thy people have corrupted themselves, made a molten calf, and have worshipped it, proclaiming the image to be the gods that delivered them out of Egypt. This is defined for us in **Jas 1:14-15; 14 "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."** God is going to send a plague and destroy many of Israel for this sin. We shall see that death for sin, before they enter the land of promise, will be the end result for all of Israel except Joshua and Caleb.

Did you notice here and in the preceding verses, Israel uses gods (plural) for the one idol that Aaron made for them? How can a singular molten calf have a plural meaning? What was this golden image comprised of? The individual gold given by each person from the tribe of Israel. Each individual piece represents the gods that that

person worships. When combined, there is one image, but many gods are represented. All people, who do not put on Christ in their daily lives, are worshipping gods, themselves being the first of the number.

God also tells Moses that he foreknew this people to be stiff necked. God tells Moses to not stand in his way, so His wrath can wax hot, and He can destroy this stiff-necked people. God also promises to make of Moses a great nation.

11 "And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? 12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it forever. 14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."

Moses, immediately responded to God: why does your wrath wax hot against "**thy people**," whom You brought out of Egypt with great power and demonstration of Your sovereignty. Moses is quick to point out to God, You chose these people, not me. Demonstrating to us that we should never come to God declaring I have saved myself or someone else eternally, but rather, when interceding for other children of God, we should be reminding God that you chose to save us, and with that comes the eternal covenant promise, which You made with your only begotten Son before the world was.

Moses continues to intercede for Israel, reminding God that if He slays this people, all the miracles He did in Egypt would be made pointless to the Egyptians, and all the rest of the world. Moses continues by reminding God of His promises to Abraham, Issac, and Israel, who was formerly called Jacob. God hearing this repents of the evil He intended against this stiff-necked people. Repent does not mean here as we are to repent of our sins, but rather it means that God had **pity** upon these sinners, through the intercessory prayer of Moses, and did not carry through with their destruction. Look at the world today and see how great the pity of God is upon sinners.

How often do we see others get caught up in sinfulness, and we are quick to say things like; well, they had it coming, I knew they didn't amount to much, or some such slur against their character: rather than following Moses's quick defense that they are God's people and makes intercessory prayers for them. When we fail to defend God's people: is that an exhibition of godly love for one another? Absolutely not. However, we see Moses exhibiting godly love for his people, and so should we: because Jesus commands us to love one another.

Herein, we see the beautiful prophetic picture of Jesus our Saviour interceding for us before God. How is this manifested to us? What has stood between us, offending, sinful, man, and God's wrath of eternal destruction in the lake of fire? Only Jesus, the Christ. We see this in scripture in several places. Here is one, **Heb 7:25**

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." The picture being: Just as Moses is in the presence of God pleading for Israel to be forgiven of their sins: Jesus is forever in the presence of God the Father interceding for us, pleading his finished work on the cross, which guarantees our eternal security.

We see the picture of Moses reminding God of the eternal promises God had made to the forefathers of these sinners. We see the same picture in Jesus. Every time God sees our sins and is angry with us: Jesus is interceding at the right hand of the throne of God, and reminding God of the eternal covenant between them before the world was. The covenant being that Jesus would eternally remit all the sins, of all of God's people, and give unto them eternal life. Even today, Jesus is interceding for sinful man before an offended God, as seen in **1Pe 1:19-20; 18 "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."** There are many scriptures that set before us the example of

intercessory prayer, which is to the building up and edification of the people of God. Not ridiculing, degrading, or gossiping about others.

Another lesson we can learn from this is: just as Moses knew of the earlier covenants of God to Israel, we, God's chosen people, need to know what the whole bible teaches. Why? That we might have readily available the covenant promises of God, which we may use in our prayers for our own forgiveness, and in our intercessory prayers for our brothers and sisters in Christ, when we, or others, fail to be true disciples of Christ. This is why Jesus told us to pray to God the Father in His name. Why? Because Jesus is the one interceding for us, as Moses is here interceding for Israel.

Our heavenly Father, We thank you for our one true intercessor, Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son, who paid the debt of sin that we could not pay. We thank you that Jesus is still interceding for us as we stumble and fail, in our discipleship, along life's journey. We thank you for the surety of the covenant, which was sealed with the blood of Jesus, and gives us eternal security. We thank you for the eternal promise, to which we look forward, that in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, when we, and those who are alive and remain at the return of Christ are changed, will be 100% sinless and pure. We thank you, heavenly Father, that our Intercessor is alive forevermore, and we too shall live forever in the place He has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Amen!

15 ¶ "And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written. 16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables."

God has told Moses: go down to thy people, which have sinned in making a molten calf, and they have called it the gods that delivered them out of Egypt. God tells Moses: stand aside and let my wrath go forth and destroy this stiffnecked people, and I will make of you a great nation. Instead of Moses going down right then, Moses immediately intercedes for Israel to God. This is a beautiful prophetic picture of Jesus interceding, for all of God's people, before he came to earth in a body of flesh, where through the shedding of his blood, and His physical death, He procured the salvation of God's people. But the covenant of the salvation of God's people was made in the eternal heavens before the world was, which was long before Jesus came down to the earth. This is the picture of Moses interceding for Israel in the mount before he comes down to Israel.

Moses comes down from the mount from the presence of God. He brings with him the two tables of stone which God had made, upon which God had written the Ten Commandments. Moses also collects Joshua, who has been waiting at his specified place in the mount. Moses bringing the two tables of stone, prepared and written with the laws of God upon them, is a picture of Jesus coming to earth in a prepared body, bringing the laws of God, in their true meaning to God's people. We see this prophetic picture in: ***Joh 1:1-5; 1 ¶ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 ¶ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."***

We see in the two tables of stone made by God and written on both sides, the prepared body with which Jesus came to earth. When Jesus came to earth, he came to fulfill the sacrificial law by offering Himself as a sacrifice for sin. Since the sacrifice, of Jesus's body on the cross, brought eternal remission of sins for all of God's people, those who were before him under the Old Testament administration, and those after him, who are under the reign of salvation by the grace of God. We see the saved, of both testaments, in Jesus, who was the only one able to completely fulfill those commandments without sin in his body. We shall try to give a more in-depth view of this picture when we get to ***Ex 32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.*** It was the body of Jesus that was broken for us, on earth, not in heaven.

To help us get a better view of this prophetic picture, let's look at: ***Lu 11:39-40; 39 "And the Lord said unto him, Now do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and the platter; but your inward part is full of ravening and wickedness. 40 Ye fools, did not he that made that which is without make that which is within also?"*** Jesus is telling the Pharisees that God made the outside as well as the inside of mankind, the body with the heart and soul within. These two tables of stone were written on both sides by God, indicating to us, that

when we are born again, God has written his laws on the inside in our hearts and outside in our bodies. God has put his laws in our hearts, and minds, in the new birth, and God has imparted a new nature for the flesh to live by, by writing his laws in our bodies. Remember, your body is the temple of God, and after the new birth you are to show, from your outward bodily actions, and your inward bodily actions, that you have been born again, by obeying the laws of God.

Consider the content of the Ten Commandments. The first four are commandments of our relationship to God, which are indicative of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the heart, mind, soul, and body. The last six are commandments of how to love one another as children of God, which is indicative of the new flesh nature of Christ, which we inherited from Christ in the new birth, and is to be manifested by our works in the flesh. Jesus summed these up in the New Testament by saying: ***Mt 22:36-40; 36 "Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. 40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."***

Wherefore, we see with clarity that when we are born again by the Holy Spirit power of God, God writes in our hearts, minds, and souls, the commandments to love God with all that we are. Having written the love of God supreme in our inward parts; after the new birth, our flesh is to show forth the new sinless flesh nature of Christ that is within us. Therefore, the commandments of God are written on both sides of us: on the inside in our hearts, minds, and souls, and on the outside in our flesh, which now is to manifest the new sinless nature of the flesh of Christ. Wherefore, Jesus gave us a new commandment in: ***Joh 13:34-35; 34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."***

Remember, I did not say that your inherited flesh nature is gone when you are born again. Your inherited flesh nature is the inborn nature to believe the lies of the devil. It has an inborn hatred for the commandments of God. Satan will continue to tempt you to yield to that inherited sin nature as long as you live on this earth.

However, we can rejoice in trials and temptations because Jesus has told us in: ***1Jo 4:4; 1 ¶ "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 4 ¶ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*** Oh! what joy! to know that Jesus in us is greater than the devil without.

This is why we are told in scripture in: ***Ro 8:11-14; 11 "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. 12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. 13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. 14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."*** In the new birth your body is quickened, which means **to revitalize**. This is the knowledge that we have Christ in us. Being born again: We no longer live by the inherited sin nature of the flesh from fallen Adam: but rather; Now we live by the Spirit by which we **"mortify the deeds of the body,"** which means **to become dead, to put to death, or to kill**, the Adamic nature of sin in the flesh, and to live by the Spirit of Christ in us, because we are the sons of God.

Thank you, King Jesus, for giving us the Spirit of Yourself in our bodies. Keep us aware of the power of You in our bodies. Please keep us from defiling our bodies in your sight. We pray in Your name to the Father, that it may be with us as it was with the Psalmist in ***Ps 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*** We thank you that you did not just save us on the inward part, but that you have saved us completely as seen in: ***1Th 5:23 ¶ "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*** Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!

17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp. 18 And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear. 19 And it came to pass, as soon as

he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

As Moses and Joshua are descending from the mount and out of the cloud of God's presence, Joshua hears the noise of the camp of Israel and thinks that it is the cry of war. Moses, having been informed by God what is going on: tells Joshua; listen closely to the sound, and you shall understand that it is not the noise of those who are fighting and winning a war, neither is it the sound of those who are losing a war; rather, it is the sound of singing. This tells us that there are two kinds of singing: one to worship idols, and one to worship God.

As they near the camp where they can see what is happening. Moses in anger cast the two tables of stone, made and written upon by God, to the ground and breaks them beneath the mount. This is the picture we spoke of earlier of the prepared body of Jesus coming to earth to be broken for sin, that the sins of all of God's people, those before and after Christ, would be eternally remitted. We shall not see the totality of this emblematic picture, until we are raised in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, when all the bodies of all of God's people will be sinless, incorruptible, and immortal, because of the broken body of Christ. In the eternal heaven; we shall be loosed from the laws of sin and death, the bonds thereof having been broken, when the body of Christ was broken for us, in His sacrifice for our eternal remission of sins, as seen in **1Co 11:24 "And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me."** We know His body was broken for us because he told us in this scripture, which is emblematic of Moses breaking the two tables of stone. The picture being: Moses received the commandments in the mount, and they were broken below the mount, which is indicative of Jesus leaving heaven and coming to earth, to have his prepared body broken for us. That is what removed us from under the curse of the law, of eternal death for sin.

20 "And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it."

Moses took the golden calf and burned it in the fire, then ground it to powder. Then, Moses scattered the powder on the water, and he made the children of Israel drink of it. Ground to powder means **to make it into dust**. Even gold dust will float on the water's surface tension. When Moses caused the people to drink the water, which had the dust of their golden idol upon it, the people were drinking their idols of gold.

What did this action carried out by Moses say to Israel. First, burning it in the fire would make the idol lose its shape and prove it was not the God. Second, it showed that the idol had no power to sustain itself, and therefore it could not do anything to save them. Thirdly, by grinding it to powder, Israel was shown what a futile effort their idol was. Fourthly, they would see their wealth of money, which they invested in this idol, being wasted upon the water, so they could never have it back. Lastly, by drinking the dust of their idol, knowing that it would be cast forth in the draught, they would see the ugliness of their sin.

21 ¶ "And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them? 22 And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief. 23 For they said unto me, 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. 24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So, they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf."

Moses asks Aaron: Under what threat from the people did you make this idol for them? Moses can hardly believe that Aaron actually made the idol for Israel, or that he would establish a feast to this idol. He reiterates to Aaron how great a sin idolatry is, and that Aaron is to blame for going along with the people's request. This reminds us of the application that it has to us, found in the NT scripture in: **Ga 1:10 ¶ "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."** We cannot serve two masters, only one.

Aaron pleads mercy before Moses's anger, and he places the blame upon the people. Aaron also points out that the people did not know what had become of the man that brought them out of Egypt, which reminds us that they considered Moses to be a god (little g), and that they had already forgotten the Lord and his miraculous works. Less than forty days ago they had seen God descend upon the mount and heard him speak to

them, from whom they fled away and asked Moses to be an intermediately for them. All the while that Moses is on the mount, the cloudy pillar and fire is still very visible to them, but all is cast aside to indulge in their lust.

Aaron declares that I told them to bring me your gold. When they gave it to me, I cast it into the fire and it came out a calf, which we know is a lie. We are told in **Ex 32:4 "And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf:"** Aaron fashioned a mold of a calf and then graved it after it came out of the mold.

Aaron's actions remind us that the inherited sin nature of man has not changed since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. As Adam blamed God for giving him the woman who gave him to eat of the forbidden fruit: Eve blamed the serpent for deceiving her: so, Aaron blames the people for his sin. This is the way of the world, never take blame on yourself directly, but put it off on someone else: while the Children of God, when they understand they have sinned, will humble their hearts and fully accept blame for their own sins. They will do this with repentant hearts desiring God's forgiveness. May it ever be so with us, we pray in Jesus' name.

We would add that for those who commit sin, you are the only one to blame. Why do you say that? God tells us in **Jas 1:13-15; 13 ¶ "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."** Where is the origin of sin? God tells us that it is the heart of man, seen in **Mt 15:18-20; 18 "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. 19 For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: 20 These are the things which defile a man:"** Since God does not tempt man to sin, we see the origin of sin is in the heart of man. When the mind seizes upon the thought of sin and carries it into action, sin is consummated, and God was not involved in the process. You can't even blame it on the devil. Why? The devil may tempt you with some sin, but it is not sin until you make the decision to act upon it. That is your decision and yours only.

Praise God for the finished work of Jesus Christ, and the result of the new birth with the transformation of the heart as seen in **1Co 10:13-14; 13 "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."** We see in our Exodus text that Israel did not flee from temptation, but rather, they turned their hearts wholly unto the sin of idolatry, by taking action to create an idol, and thereby bringing death upon themselves.

Wherefore, we have a great lesson to flee from idolatry, and all sinfulness. Because Jesus Christ came to earth in that prepared body, which was broken for our sins: because we are given new hearts in the new birth, which are filled with the fruits of the Spirit as seen in **Ga 5:22-24; 22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."** Praise God for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the new creature, the saved by grace sinner. Hallelujah! Amen!

25 "And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)"

Naked means **to loosen, to expose, dismiss, go back, make naked, set at nought, perish, uncover.** The definition of naked reveals to us several things: Israel had loosed themselves from everything pertaining to God. They had dismissed God from their thoughts and influencing their lives. They have gone back to their inherited sin nature. In their drunkenness, from the sin of idolatry, they have exposed themselves in the pleasures of the flesh, and they have uncovered their bodies in shamelessness.

"for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies" Shame means **scornful whispering.** By making this idol, Aaron had provided a way for their enemies, who would see and hear of this abominable act in the sight of God, would be enabled to say; this people, who we thought were something special when they left Egypt, are no different than we are. They aren't serving "**The Lord**," but they are just like us; they are serving themselves. We can overcome these people with ease, as they are no longer defended by "**The Lord**" which brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand, from whom they have turned away.

Now apply this to our own lives today as Christians. Do you see and understand? why God said **Ex 20:3 "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."** Failure to wholly serve God, is the be made "**naked unto our**

shame among our enemies?" Who are our enemies? Satan and everyone who is not saved by the grace of God, and sometimes those who are saved. When we are unfaithful to God; our enemies see us as no different than they are. Unfaithfulness to God and Christ is preaching heresy to our observers, within, and without the camp.

Look at the world around us and see both men and women are going around practically naked, and they, without shame, openly indulge in all manner of sinfulness against God. This is a byproduct of forsaking God and his commandments. It is a tool Satan uses, to pull us away from God through fleshly lust and covetousness.

26 "Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him. 27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men. 29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. 30 ¶ And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin."

Moses sets himself apart from Israel and asks: "**Who is on the Lord's side?**" We are told that Levi, the tribe of the priesthood, gathers to stand with Moses. This is a picture of saved people, who take the cross of discipleship to Christ and separate themselves from a life of sin and sinfulness, by serving God instead of self.

Moses commanded Levi to take up their swords and without partiality, slay those involved in this great sin of idolatry. Moses is telling the people to consecrate themselves to God, by removing those involved in the idolatry. This is what we are directed to do in ***Lu 14:26-27; 26 "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."***

The next day, Moses declares the greatness of the sin of Israel to the remainder, who are alive. Moses tells them he will once again go to God, as an intercessor, to try to make atonement for their sin. Herein, we see the picture of Jesus Christ, our intercessor on the throne of God, making intercessions for us.

31 "And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. 34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them. 35 And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made."

Moses goes back, up into the mount to God, and confesses that Israel has committed a grievous sin in making idols to replace God. Moses offers himself as a sacrifice for the sin of Israel. How does Moses do this? Moses, as a mediator, says to God: earlier you made me an offer of slaying this stiffnecked people and making of me a great nation. Moses says, I reject this offer, and if Israel must die, then slay me with them. God accepts Moses's offering of self-sacrifice. However, God tells Moses, "**Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.**" God tells Moses, "***in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.***" God sends a plague upon them for their sin of idolatry.

We know, and understand, that we all have a sin nature, and we all have at some time practiced sinning. Therefore, we are all under the penalty of death, which should remove our names from the book of life. However, God says to Moses, you have not committed sin, and I will not take your name from my book. These words give us the picture of Christ Jesus, who shed his holy blood, gave his life on the cross, and declared us righteous and sinless thereby. Therefore, our names are still included in the Book of Life. As those of Israel, who were not slain for idolatry, were saved by the intercession of Moses on their behalf. Thus, all of God's chosen people are saved by the intercession of Christ, to God the Father.

God tells Moses to lead this people to the land of promise, and I will send an Angel before you. This is the same Angel that God promised in ***Ex 23:23 For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut***

them off." This is a picture of what happens in our lives in the new birth. What do you mean? The new birth is brought about by the Holy Spirit being sent to reside in you, which Holy Spirit drives out the evil influences in your life. From that time forward, the Holy Spirit should be the leading light of your pilgrim journey on earth. This is a picture of Jesus telling us in, ***Joh 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;*** This is a prophetic picture of your life today as a Child of God.

Remember how often I have told you that there is always a consequence for sin? We shall see this brought to fruition in the lives of these Israelites who committed this idolatrous act. God will send a plague and many shall die. It is because of sin in our lives that we are plagued with sickness, death, and other plagues.

Moses will lead them to the shore of the Promised Land, and they shall refuse to enter in. God shall punish them by causing them to wander in the wilderness until every one of these Israelites die, except for Joshua and Caleb, the two faithful witnesses.

Apply this to ourselves today. If God leads us to see the entrance to the Promised Land, the Church of Christ, and we refuse to enter in; we don't have to guess what the result will be. We shall have to wander in the wilderness until we die, having not entered the rest that God had prepared for us. Does this mean we are eternally damned? Not if we are of the number for whom Christ died and interceded for. What we will miss is the joy of the rest, that is provided to the church, which rest is to believe that you have been given the promise of entering the eternal kingdom of heaven.

I am prone to forget that in the Old Testament, beginning with Adam until the present; God has revealed much more about himself, and his will and purpose, than we are told in scripture. Example, who would ever have thought that Moses knew that God had written a book, which contained the names of God's people. We believe this book is the same Book of Life which we read of in ***Php 4:3*** and in several books in Revelation. Another example is: Job and King David both confessed the resurrection of the dead in Christ.

Did you notice that God rightly charged Israel, and Aaron, in the making of the idol, of which Aaron lied to Moses, claiming he just threw the gold in the fire and out came the golden calf? This teaches us; our sins cannot be hidden from God. The conversation, between God and Moses, will continue in chapter 33.

May God help us to understand the seriousness of idolatry. May God, through the indwelling Holy Spirit power, enable us to avoid turning from the Lord: We pray in the name of our once crucified, but now risen and exalted, Saviour, Jesus Christ, Amen!