

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## EXODUS 32:15-24

### LESSON: GOD CONFRONTS THE SIN — November 8, 2020



#### INTRODUCTION:

**Chapter 32:7-14** God didn't tell Moses about the situation until it was too late to stop it. God knew that trouble was going on in the camp while He and Moses communed on the mount and tells Moses to quickly get back down the mountain. They didn't wait long to sin against God! In speaking with Moses, the Lord identifies the Israelites as "**your**" people – disowning Israel and making them Moses' people—*The people you have led up out of the land of Egypt have fallen to depravity.* Now, God condemned the people due to their lack of faithfulness. Enraged, God planned to destroy the Israelites, and make Moses a great nation instead of them. The people had so quickly strayed from the path that God have commanded by making a molten image. They had "*quickly turned aside*" from the Lord. The Lord said to Moses, "*I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people.*" Then God announces judgment against these people. In other words, God was willing to wipe out all the Israelites, and just start over with Moses. Moses requested and implored of the Lord with a question as to why He is provoked to wrath against His people in which He had rescued and brought out of Egypt by His awesome power and mighty hand? He even says this was a bad time for the Egyptians to begin to speak with sarcasm and mockery about Him bringing the Israelites out of the mountains and then consuming them from the face of the earth. His name, character, and power would be called into question by the heathen if they were consumed. Moses is concerned about God's reputation and begs God to turn back from the heat of His anger; away from His fierce wrath and repent; renounce the plan to punish this evil against His people. Moses brings to God's remembrance of the promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, His servants where His own self swore and made this promise to them: "*He will multiply Abraham's seed as the stars of heaven; all the land God spoke of and promised, and Abraham's seed will inherit it forever.*" God never forgets. He just wants us to bring up His Word before Him. And the Lord repented of the evil which He thought to do unto His people. God is not a man that He should repent as a man repents in his ignorance of the future. That's why we can say that God knows all future circumstances and will never be caught off guard.

#### LESSON: I. MOSES RETURNS FROM THE MOUNTAIN EXODUS 32:15-18

**32:15** **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.** Moses did as the Lord instructed. He turned and went down from the mount to confront the people. He held in his hand the two tables of the testimony; the tables God had written His Laws on both sides; the engraved Words of God were on the front and back.

**32:16** **And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.** This was God's workmanship. God's work and engraved writing was on these tables for His people.

**32:17** **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.** Joshua and Moses have come down from the mount, and Joshua heard the noise (sound) of the people shouting. Joshua tells Moses that it sounds like a noise of war going on in the camp.

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**32:18 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.** But Moses says *"That is not the sound when people win a battle; sound of victory. And neither is it the sound when people lose a battle; shouting defeat, but it's the voice and sound of singing he hears."* So, the thing they're probably asking themselves is: What are they singing about? I know the song says *"Don't Wait Till the Battle's Over, Shout Now."* But, they hadn't had any reason to go to war until Moses gets his orders from the Lord God. And that hadn't happened.

## II. MOSES CONFRONTS THE SIN EXODUS 32:19-21

**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.** I can just imagine the look on Moses' face and the feeling inside when he came near and into the camp. This really wasn't what he wanted to see—a golden calf like in Egypt, and them dancing before this idol! Moses was so angry that his anger burned hot; became enraged, that he threw the tables out of his hands and broke them in pieces at the foot of the mountain.

**32:20 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.** Note: Moses did four things to get the people's attention; to show them that what they had done had consequences:

1. So, Moses took the golden calf which they made and burned it in the fire.
2. He ground it so fine that it was powder.
3. And he sprinkled the powder over the surface of the water.
4. and he made the children of Israel drink it.

They were made to drink this because of their sin. Now, to see Moses again whom they thought was dead should have made them ashamed and full of guilt. But, to take it even farther is to drink and digest the depravity of the sin of their ungodliness for they had sinned against God who brought them out of Egypt!

**32:21 And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?**—Moses now goes to the one who was left in charge, and that's Aaron. And he says to Aaron, "What harm did **the people** do to you that **you** brought this great sin upon them? Remember, Aaron was left in charge of the people, so the buck stops there. This was like treason; disloyalty from the people and his brother unto God.

## III. AARON DEFENDS HIS ACTIONS EXODUS 32:22-24

**32:22 And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.** Aaron already knows that he's messed up and pleads with Moses to not let the heat of the Lord's anger grow hot. That means go to God for us! Now, Aaron blames the people saying you know how bad; how wicked; how mischief; how impetuous these people are. There you are, blame is shifted!

**32:23 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.** Aaron continues to give his defense in blaming the people. He gives the words of the people verbatim from verse 32:1c back to Moses as his testimony of what the people said to him. They didn't beat him up and make him do this; he gave in.

**32:24 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.** Aaron continues to defend himself, but the truth finally comes out—I said...they gave it to me...I cast it...in fire... Did he keep back that he melted it all

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down, shaped and molded this calf with a carving tool? And that it didn't just come up by itself, and then he said *"These be thy gods, O Israel..."* (32:4). *"Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord"* (32:5). Now it's a cover-up!

## SUMMARY:

Moses did as the Lord instructed, he came down from the mount to confront the people as he held the two tables of the testimony in his hand. God's Words were on both sides of the tables as His Laws. This was God's workmanship; God's writing; His engraved inscription on these tables for His people. Joshua and Moses came down from the mount and Joshua heard the noise (sound) of the people shouting. Joshua tells Moses that it sounds like a noise of war going on in the camp. But Moses says that it's not the voice or sound of victory, neither is it the sound of them shouting defeat, but it's the voice and sound of singing he hears **(32:15-18)**.

Moses was so enraged with anger as he came near into the camp; seeing the calf, and them dancing before it that he threw the tables out of his hands and broke them into pieces at the foot of the mountain. Moses took the golden calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, ground it so fine that it became powder, and he sprinkled the powder over the surface of the water, and made the children of Israel drink it. Moses says to Aaron, "What harm did the people do to you that you brought this great sin upon them? This was like treason or disloyalty from the people and his brother unto God **(32:19-21)**."

Aaron already knows that he's messed up and pleads with Moses to not let the heat of the Lord's anger grow hot. That meant go to God for us! Now, Aaron blames the people saying you know how bad; how wicked; how mischief; how impetuous these people are. There you are, blame is shifted! He continues to give his defense in blaming the people. He gives the words of the people verbatim from verse 32:1c back to Moses as his testimony of what the people said to him. They didn't beat him up and make him do this; he gave in. He continues to defend himself, but he kept back some important details. Yes, he asked for their gold; they broke it off and gave it to him, but he left off the part that he shaped and molded this calf with a carving tool and said *"These be thy gods, O Israel..."* (32:4). *"Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord"* (32:5). Now it's a cover-up! **(32:22-24)**.