

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

EXODUS 32:25-35

LESSON: GOD JUDGES THE SIN

—November 15, 2020



INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 32:19-24 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. 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.*" Now, you see it, 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!

LESSON:

I. SWIFT JUDGMENT EXODUS 32:25-29

32:25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies):— Being "*naked*" before God is not that they were without clothes, but Moses could see and perceive God's covering removed, their hearts uncovered; them being bare and vulnerable to who they really are without God. Aaron gave them permission when he built the idol calf and called it their god, and when he proclaimed a feast day... Aaron had exposed and let them cast off restraints; let them loose to become unruly, and because of their vulnerability in the midst of their enemies, they would be mocked, for they had left their true God who had led them out of Egypt, for an idol god they had left in Egypt.

32:26 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. Moses went right to work to bring a halt to this sin. As he stands in the gate of the camp, he shouts out to everyone, "*Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me.*" And I can just see immediately that all the sons of Levi (the priestly tribe) gathered themselves together unto Moses because they knew he meant business.

32:27 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. Moses being under the Lord God's leading of Israel are ordered to gird his sword to his hip, go throughout the camp from gate to gate; end to end and kill every man his brother (kinsfolk), and friend, and neighbor.

32:28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that

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day about three thousand men. The children of Levi did not mince with any words, but did as Moses instructed them. About 3000 men died that day—those that had persisted in idolatry and immorality. Before the Law could be given 3000 men died. But, at the Day of Pentecost; the beginning of Grace, 3000 men were saved.

32:29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day. So, Moses tells the Levites that today they had been consecrated; sanctified today for the service of the Lord, for each of them were against his own son and his own brother. Now, this day the Lord bestowed; gave them a great blessing.

II. GODLY INTERCESSION EXODUS 32:30–32

32:30 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. Well, the next day came and Moses tells the people he's going to leave them again. He's going back up the mountain because the people have sinned, and he needs to plead their case before God, and perhaps he will be able to obtain forgiveness for them from God. Did he forget that he also broke the tables that the Lord God had written?

32:31 And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Moses goes back up the mountain and talks with God about the people. I can just hear him now: "*Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold*", as if God didn't know. ¹Moses could not wholly turn away the wrath of God, which shows that the law of Moses was not able to reconcile men to God, and to perfect their peace with Him. However, in Christ alone, God so pardons sin as to remember it no more.

32:32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. Well, Moses have pulled out some big guns, for he has really placed himself in the middle as intercessor. "*If you will, forgive their sin, but if you won't, blot me out of your Book you have written, I pray.*" He has placed himself on the chopping block. Moses is truly standing in as intercessor for a people he didn't want to lead, and for those who won't listen to him. It truly says a lot.

III. DIVINE DECLARATION EXODUS 32:33–35

32:33 And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. The Lord God knows what He's doing. He does not give a yes or no answer to what Moses has asked. But, He does tell Moses a true statement that "*whosoever sins against Him will be blotted out of His Book*" (*Book of Life or Book of the Living*). This means you are beyond repair.

32:34 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. At this point God tells Moses, "*consequently, go down and lead the people to the place we've spoken of.*" What God is saying is don't worry about this! For now, God is going to send His Angel before him (33:2), but the day will come when He will visit them. And He will visit them with vengeance and punishment for their sin. God's timing is not our timing!

32:35 And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made. Scripture

¹ <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/exodus/32-31.htm>

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tells us what the Lord did and why. He afflicted and struck down, making the people suffer with a plague because of the calf fashioned and made by Aaron.



SUMMARY:

Moses could see and perceive God's covering removed, their hearts uncovered; their nakedness shows who they really are without God. Aaron had let them cast off restraints; let them loose to become unruly, for he gave them permission when he built the idol calf and called it their god, and when he proclaimed a feast day... in the midst of their enemies, they would be mocked, for they had left their true God who led them out of Egypt, for an idol god they had left in Egypt. Moses stands in the gate of the camp shouting to everyone, "*Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me.*" All the sons of Levi (the priestly tribe) gathered themselves together unto Moses because they knew he meant business. Moses being under the Lord God's leading of Israel, orders the sons of Levi to gird his sword to his hip, go throughout the camp from gate to gate; end to end and kill every man his brother (kinsfolk), and friend, and neighbor. They did as Moses instructed them. About 3000 men died that day—those that had persisted in idolatry and immorality. So, Moses tells the Levites that today they had been consecrated and sanctified for the service of the Lord, for each of them were against his own son and his own brother. Now, this day the Lord bestowed; gave them a great blessing (**32:25-29**).

Well, the next day came and Moses tells the people he's going to leave them again. He's going back up the mountain because the people have sinned and he needs to plead their case before God, and perhaps he will be able to obtain forgiveness for them from God. At the mountain Moses says to God "*Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold*", as if God didn't know. "*If you will, forgive their sin, but if you won't, blot me out of your Book you have written, I pray.*" Moses is truly standing in as intercessor for a people he didn't want to lead and for those who won't listen to him. It truly says a lot (**32:30-32**).

The Lord God knows what He's doing. He does not give a yes or no answer to what Moses has asked. But, He does tell Moses that "*whosoever sins against Him (God) will be blotted out of His Book*" (*Book of Life or Book of the Living*). At this point God tells Moses, "*consequently, go down and lead the people to the place we've spoken of.*" God is going to send His Angel before him, but the day will come when He will visit them. And He will visit them with vengeance and punishment for their sin. Scripture tells us what the Lord did and why. He afflicted and struck down, making the people suffer with a plague because of the calf fashioned and made by Aaron (**32:33-35**).