



Mount Sinai and the Golden Calf

Exodus 19, 32



Exodus 19 – Mt. Sinai

- The peals of the thunder.
- The lightning streaking.
- The trembling of the very mountain.
- The sound of the trumpet growing.
- The voice of God calling out.

Exodus 32:1-6

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.” 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.” So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. 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!” 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.” 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.



Exodus 32:7-10

And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. 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!’” And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. 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.”



Exodus 32:11-14

But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.



Exodus 32:15-19

Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets that were written on both sides; on the front and on the back they were written. The tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, engraved on the tablets. When Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” But he said, “It is not the sound of shouting for victory, or the sound of the cry of defeat, but the sound of singing that I hear.” And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses’ anger burned hot, and he threw the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.



Exodus 32:20-24

He took the calf that they had made and burned it with fire and ground it to powder and scattered it on the water and made the people of Israel drink it. And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?" And Aaron said, "Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, '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.' So I said to them, 'Let any who have gold take it off.' So they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."



Moses Comes Down the Mountain



The Adoration of the Golden Calf by Nicolas Poussin, 1634



Vocab of the Week: Iconoclast

Dictionary

Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)



i·con·o·clast

noun

1. a person who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions.

Similar:

critic

skeptic

questioner

heretic

nonconformist

dissident



2. a destroyer of images used in religious worship.



Moses Confronts Aaron



The Adoration of the Golden Calf by Nicolas Poussin, 1634





William Gurnall, 1616-1679

“The more subtle you seem in concealing your sin, the more egregiously you play the fool. None so shamed as the liar when found out, and that you are sure to be. Your covering is too short to hide yourself from God's eye, and what God sees, if you do not put yourself to shame, he will tell all the world hereafter, however you escape in this life.”

The Christian in Complete Armor (put in modern English)

Exodus 32:25-29 (summary)

- Moses has the Levites put 3,000 men to death.



Exodus 32:30-35

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.” So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.” But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book. But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.” Then the Lord sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.





Galatians 3:16

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.

Romans 6:5-11

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.



Revelation 20:12-15

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”



Question for the Kiddos

What do you call:

1. someone who attacks cherished beliefs or institutions, or
2. someone who destroys images used in religious worship?



Two Common Questions

1. Why is the New Testament God so different from the Old Testament God?
2. Is this history at Mt. Sinai relevant to us?



Self-Reflection Questions: Aaron or Moses?

1. Like Aaron, are you disobeying something you know in your conscience to be faithful to God because of outside pressures?
2. If your life is laid out honestly, do your habits reflect a priority for the glory of God's name like Moses had?
3. Have you been honest about your sins and idols with others or like Aaron are you trying to hide?
4. Like Moses, do you hate what God hates and love what God loves?





Idolatry Today

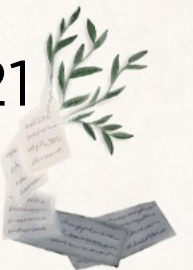
God's Kingdom - A New Scope

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Acts 17:30,31

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:20-21



Four Exhortations

1. Consider your ways and engage.

“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Consider your ways.”
Haggai 1:7



Four Exhortations

1. Consider your ways and engage.
2. Speak the truth in love.

“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,”
Ephesians 4:15



Four Exhortations

1. Consider your ways and engage.
2. Speak the truth in love.
3. Speak truthfully God's will to the lost.

“Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.”

Proverbs 24:11



Four Exhortations

1. Consider your ways and engage.
2. Speak the truth in love.
3. Speak truthfully God's will to the lost.
4. Be patient and wait for the Lord.

“Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Romans 12:11,12



“This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court...It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God. I have applied all these things...that you may learn by us not to go beyond what is written, that none of you may be puffed up in favor of one against another.”

1 Corinthians 4:1-6



Four Exhortations

1. Consider your ways and engage. (Haggai 1:7)
2. Speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:15)
3. Speak truthfully God's will to the lost.
(Proverbs 24:11)
4. Be patient and wait for the Lord.
(Romans 12:11,12)

