

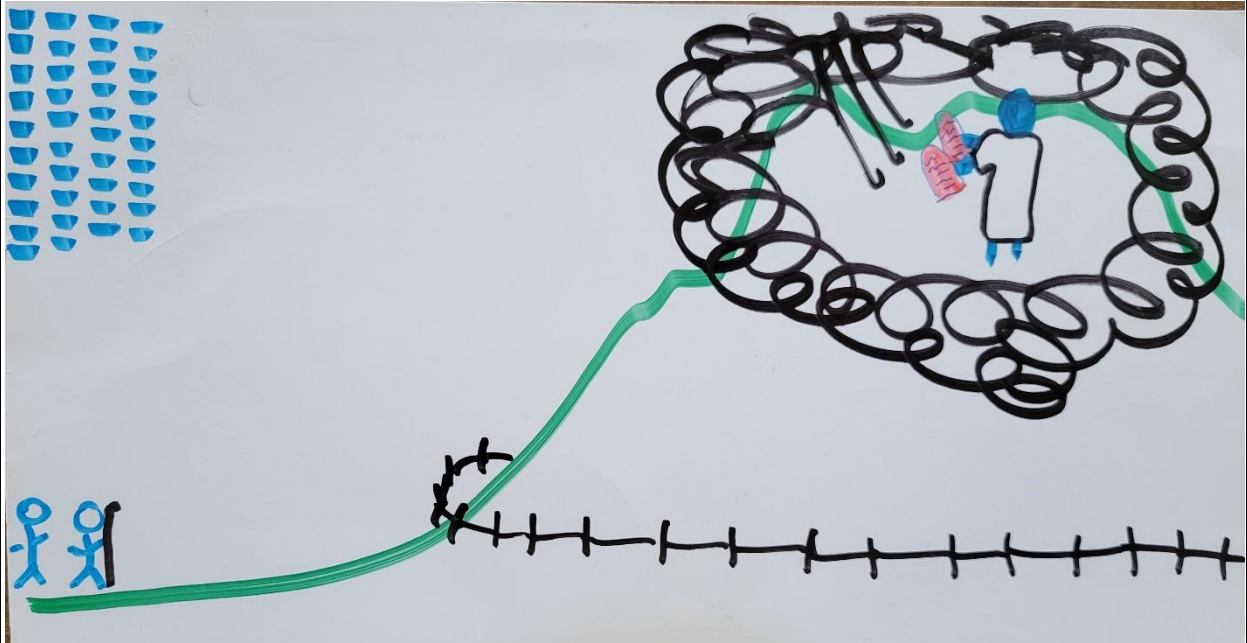
## Exodus 32:1-29

Exodus 24:15-18, “Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup>Now the glory of the Lord rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. <sup>17</sup>The sight of the glory of the Lord *was* like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel. <sup>18</sup>So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.”

Exodus 25-31 – *Laws concerning the worship media and the assembly of the objects used.*

Exodus 25:8, “And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”

Exodus 31:18, “And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.

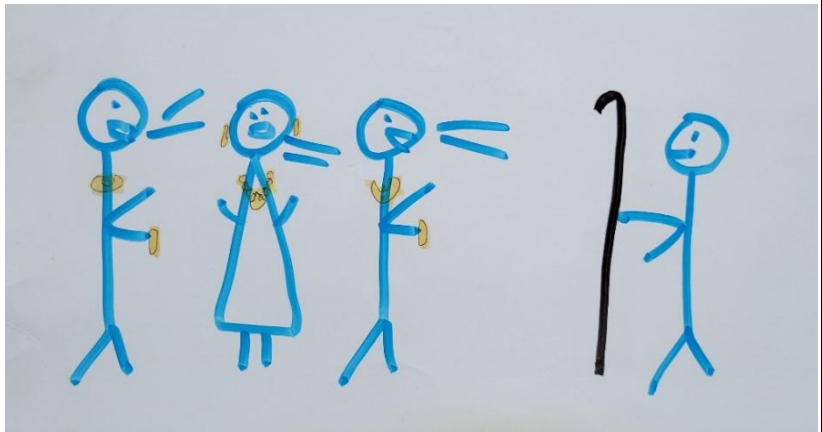


Exodus 32:1-29

<sup>1</sup>Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him,

“Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for *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.”

<sup>2</sup>And Aaron said to them, “Break off the golden earrings which *are* in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring *them* to me.” <sup>3</sup>“So all the people broke off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>And he received *the gold* from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf.



Then they said, “This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!”  
<sup>5</sup>So when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow *is* a feast to the Lord.”<sup>6</sup>Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.



<sup>7</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, “Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted *themselves*.<sup>8</sup>They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said,

‘This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!’ ”

<sup>9</sup>And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed **it is a stiff-necked people!**<sup>10</sup>Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.”

**Acts 7:37-43**, “This is that Moses who said to the children of Israel, ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you **a Prophet** like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear.’<sup>38</sup>This is he who was in the congregation in the wilderness with **the Angel** who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our fathers, the one who received the living oracles to give to us,<sup>39</sup>whom our fathers would not obey, but rejected. And in their hearts they turned back to Egypt,<sup>40</sup>saying to Aaron,

‘Make us gods to go before us; as for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’<sup>41</sup>And they made a calf in those days, offered sacrifices to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.<sup>42</sup>Then God turned and gave them up to worship the host of heaven, as it is written in the book of the Prophets:

‘Did you offer Me slaughtered animals and sacrifices during forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel?<sup>43</sup>You also took up the tabernacle of Moloch, And the star of your god Remphan, Images which you made to worship; And I will carry you away beyond Babylon.’ (quoting Amos 5:25-27)

The thought of Amos is: the king, whose tabernacle, and the images, whose shrine they bore, was a star which they had made their god, an astral divinity. They made images of their star divinity and carried them in a little casket-like temple which was placed on a portable rack (Gestell) of some kind. This method of worship **the Israelites copied from the Egyptians** among whom sun worship and star worship existed from the earliest times. We need recall only that Ra was originally their supreme god, namely the sun, the prototype of all their kings, who was worshipped also **as Osiris and in Apis, the bull**. Mentu and Atmu are only the rising and the setting sun, i. e., Ra divided; Phtha and Amon (Amon-Ra) were later advanced to first place as gods.... (Lenski, Commentary on the NT, Acts, p.291)

<sup>11</sup>Then Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, and said:

(lit. the face of Yahweh: פָּנֵי יְהוָה)

“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?”

<sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

<sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit *it* forever.’ ”

### Psalm 106:19-23

<sup>19</sup> They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image. <sup>20</sup> Thus they changed their glory Into the image of an ox that eats grass. <sup>21</sup> They forgot God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt, <sup>22</sup> Wondrous works in the land of Ham, Awesome things by the Red Sea. <sup>23</sup> Therefore He said that He would destroy them, **Had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach,** To turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.

<sup>14</sup>So the Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Genesis 6:5-8 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup>And the Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. <sup>7</sup>So the Lord said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” <sup>8</sup>But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.

<sup>15</sup>And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony *were* in his hand. The tablets *were* written on both sides; on the one *side* and on the other they were written. <sup>16</sup>Now the tablets *were* the work of God, and the writing *was* the



writing of God engraved on the tablets. <sup>17</sup>And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “*There is a noise of war in the camp.*” <sup>18</sup>But he said:

“*It is not the noise of the shout of victory,  
Nor the noise of the cry of defeat,  
But the sound of singing I hear.*”

<sup>19</sup>So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf *and* the dancing. So Moses’ anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.

<sup>20</sup>Then he took the calf which they had made, burned *it* in the fire, and ground *it* to powder; and he scattered *it* on the water and made the children of Israel drink *it*.

<sup>21</sup>And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought *so* great a sin upon them?”

<sup>22</sup>So Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they *are set* on evil. <sup>23</sup>For they said to me, ‘Make us gods that shall go before us; *as for* this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ <sup>24</sup>And I said to them, ‘Whoever has any gold, let them break *it* off.’ So they gave *it* to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.”

Deuteronomy 9:19-21

<sup>19</sup>“For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the Lord was angry with you, to destroy you. But the Lord listened to me at that time also. <sup>20</sup>**And the Lord was very angry with Aaron** and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time. <sup>21</sup>Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it and ground it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

Numbers 5:22-24 speaks about the woman caught in adulter was to drink the curse water.

<sup>25</sup>Now when Moses saw that the people *were unrestrained* (for Aaron had not restrained them, to *their* shame among their enemies), <sup>26</sup>then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever *is* on the Lord’s side—*come* to me.” And all **the sons of Levi** gathered themselves together to him. <sup>27</sup>

And he said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.’ ”

<sup>28</sup>So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

<sup>29</sup>Then Moses said, “Consecrate yourselves today to the Lord, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother.”

Exodus 22:20 “He who sacrifices to *any* god, except to the Lord only, **he shall be utterly destroyed.**

Exodus 23:24 “You shall not bow down to their gods, nor serve them, nor do according to their works; but **you shall utterly overthrow them and completely break down their *sacred* pillars.**

Exodus 34:13 “But you shall destroy their altars, break their *sacred* pillars, and **cut down their *wooden* images.**

The whole nation was guilty and deserved death. However, not all were alike—some tempters, some tempted, some repentant, some “stiff-necked.” The punishment Moses chose was decimation.

The Levites were obedient. The curse they had received (Gen 49:5-7) for unjustly killing the Shechemites (Gen 34:25-31) was turned into a blessing (Deut 33:8-11). The Levites became his peculiar possession (Num 3,4).

**Decimation (punishment)** - (In the military of ancient Rome, **decimation** (from Latin *decimatio* 'removal of a tenth') was a form of military discipline in which every tenth man in a group was executed by members of his cohort. The discipline was used by senior commanders in the Roman army to punish units or large groups guilty of capital offences, such as cowardice, mutiny, desertion, and insubordination, and for pacification of rebellious legions. The procedure was an attempt to balance the need to punish serious offences with the realities of managing a large group of offenders. **Procedure** - A cohort (roughly 480 soldiers) selected for punishment by decimation was divided into groups of ten. Each group drew lots (sortition), and the soldier on whom the lot of the shortest straw fell was executed by his nine comrades, often by stoning, clubbing, or stabbing. The remaining soldiers were often given rations of barley instead of wheat (the latter being the standard soldier's diet) for a few days, and required to [bivouac](#) outside the fortified security of the camp for some time. As the punishment fell by lot, all soldiers in a group sentenced to decimation were potentially liable for execution, regardless of individual degrees of fault, rank, or distinction. (Wikipedia)

<p>Exodus 32:30-33:6 <b>The Next Day</b></p> <p><sup>30</sup>Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; <b>perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.</b>” <sup>31</sup>Then <b>Moses returned to the LORD</b> and said,</p> <p>“Oh, these people have committed a <b>great sin</b>, and have made for themselves a god of gold! <sup>32</sup>Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of <b>Your book</b> which You have written.”</p>	<p><b>Psalm 69:28</b> Let them be blotted out of <b>the book of the living</b>, And not be written with the righteous.</p> <p><b>Daniel 12:1</b> “...And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written <b>in the book.</b></p> <p><b>Philippians 4:3</b> And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in <b>the Book of Life.</b></p> <p><b>Revelation 3:5</b> “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from <b>the Book of Life</b>; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. (also 13:8, etc)</p> <p>St. Paul (Rom 9:3) expresses his desire to accursed if it would save the Jews.</p>
<p><sup>33</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. <sup>34</sup>Now therefore, go, lead the people to <i>the place</i> of which I have spoken to you. Behold, <b>My Angel</b> shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, <b>I</b> will visit punishment upon them for their sin.”</p>	<p>Moses could not be the substitute. The punishment was not remitted, but in God’s mercy was delayed.</p> <p>God allowed for the possibility of the “stiff-necked” unrepentant to repent. When that did not happen (and they filled up the measure of their sin through repeated disobedience), they were punished. At Kadesh they were sentenced to die in the wilderness (Num 14:26ff).</p>
<p><sup>35</sup>So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.</p>	<p>That plague from the Lord was just recorded in Exodus 32:24-29.</p>

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