

Exodus Lesson 12 (Ch 32-33)

A Shameful Episode

CBCSD/LG

Israel's idolatry



Exodus 32:1-6

1 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.”

2 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.”

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

4 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!”

5 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.” 6 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

7 And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves.

8 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!’”

9 And the Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, it is a **stiff-necked people**.

10 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.”

First Theme
Key Verse:
Exodus 32:7

And the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves” (also Acts 7:39-41)

Exodus
32:9

And the Lord said
to Moses, “I have
seen this people,
and behold, it is
a stiff-necked
people. (also
Acts 7:51)

Israel's Rebellion and Idolatry (32:1-6)

Observation Questions:

1) Why did people turn to idolatry so quickly without Moses?

2) Which commandment(s) have they broken? (Ex. 20:3-4)

3) What kind of leader is Aaron? (Ex. 32:23-24)

4) Why a golden calf?

5) What are the consequences of idolatry? (32:28)

God's commandment (20:3-5)

- 1) "You shall have no other gods before me."
- 2) "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water..."
- 3) "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I am the Lord your God..."

Which commandment Israel violated?

Quotes

J.I.Packer (knowing God, ch.4)

1) Images dishonor God, they obscure His glory.

2) They conceal the truth about the personal nature and character of God.

Israel's Rebellion and Idolatry (32:1-6)

Group Discussion:

1) What are things that you wait for that need lots of patience?

2) Can you share a mistake you made because of impatience?

3) What kind of pressure or cultural influence we are facing today that may cause us to stumble?

4) What are things that can distract us from drawing close to God?



Israel's Idolatry

1) Why is it so despicable about Israel's disobedience? (Ps. 106:21-22) **Ungrateful**.

2) **Disbelief**. Do not trust God can help. (Heb 3:18-19)

Psalm 106:19-22

19 They made a calf in Horeb
and worshiped a metal image.

20 They exchanged the glory of God
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

21 They forgot God, their Savior,
who had done great things in Egypt,

22 wondrous works in the land of Ham,
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

Quotes

Desiring God (4/7/91 The Story of a Stiff-Necked People)

The root evil in many in Israel was that they derived their joy—their fulfillment, their meaning, their sense of significance—from what they could achieve with **their own hands**.

Acts 7:41: "They rejoiced in the works of their hands." They wanted a kind of god and a kind of worship in which they could demonstrate their own power and their own wisdom and their own righteousness and their own morality and their own religious zeal. They got their joy from what they could achieve and not from God.

Applications: Flee Idolatry

1) Ask God to remove our **self** reliance, **self** sufficiency and **self** righteousness.

2) Remember God's past deliverance and blessings. (mask)
Be grateful.

3) **Be patient.** Belief in His promises. Redemption is near.

Second theme
– Moses'
prayers
Exodus 33:11

“Thus the Lord
used to speak
to Moses face
to face, as a
man speaks to
his friend”

How it
started.
Exodus 32:10

(God Said) 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.



My favorite
prayer
Exodus 32:32

But now, if you
will forgive their
sin—but if not,
please blot me
out of your book
that you have
written

Exodus 32:11-14

11 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?

12 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.

13 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.’”

14 And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

Questions

1) What so significance about Moses' prayer?

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Psalm 106:23

23 Therefore he said he would destroy them—had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.

God answers Moses' prayers

Ex. 32:11-13 Moses pleaded for Israel in the mountain. Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, Israel...

- God relented. Disaster averted.

Ex. 32:31-32 Forgive their sin or blot me out of your book that you have written.

- Forgiven. But My angel shall go before you, not Me.

Ex. 33:12-16 You said you found favor of me in you. How? This nation is your people.

- My presence will go with you

Ex. 34:8-9 If I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us.

- Behold, I am making a covenant...I will do marvels,....

Group Discussion:

- 1) What do we learn from Moses as a leader?
- 2) What do we learn about God? (Exo. 34:6)

Model of Intercessory Prayer

- 1) Pleads God's reputation and glory
His Holy name and His mercy
- 2) Appeal to His promises for us
- 3) Jesus – Our Moses. Intercedes for us
(Heb 7:25)

Questions: Name some promises of God to us?

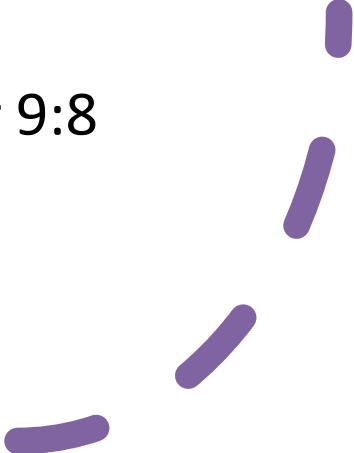
God's
promises
(John
Piper's
favorite)

1) Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Note: Spurgeon say, "I love the 'I wills and I shalls' of God". (2 Cor 1:20)

2) Roman 8:32 "He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

3) Matt 28:20, Phil 4:19, 2 Cor 9:8



A Quote on Prayer

Let this doctrine give thee boldness to come to God. Shall Jesus Christ be interceding in heaven? Oh, then, be thou a praying man (woman) on earth; yea, take courage to pray. Think thus with thyself — I go to God, to God, before whose throne the Lord Jesus is ready to hand my petitions to him; yea, “he ever lives to make intercession for me.” This is a great encouragement to come to God by prayers and supplications for ourselves, and by intercessions for our families, our neighbours, and enemies. ([Christ — A Complete Saviour](#), 239, Bunyan)

Summary of Chapter 32 -34

(I) Flee Idolatry

(II) Intercessory Prayer