

JOURNEY TO SINAI

EXODUS 31:18 – 32:6, 30-33

Text:

Introduction:

We see in the book of Exodus the mighty hand of God in bringing His children out of Egypt.

God brought the plagues to Egypt through Moses.

The Israelites were let go and are free for the first time in 400 years.

God opened the Red Sea to deliver Israel from the Egyptian army and drowned the army at the same time.

God provided the daily food of manna.

A few weeks into this historical journey, God called Moses to a special and historic meeting at Mt. Sinai.

Note

On this particular journey, Moses would receive the Ten Commandments which would be the cornerstone of the law.

Note:

1. A GLORIOUS JOURNEY – EXODUS 31:18

Exodus 31:18

¹⁸ And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.

God leads Israel to this point and now is handing them the greatest Law book in history.

A. The Revelation

This information was so important that God wrote it with His own fingers and personally gave it directly to Moses to give to the people.

Revelation is truth given from God to man that was not previously known before nor could be known except God giving it.

God Himself wrote the very words with His finger.

2. A GRIEVOUS JUNCTURE – EXODUS 32:1-6

Exodus 32:1-6

¹ And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, 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. ² And

Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which *are* in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring *them* unto me. ³ And all the people brake off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* unto Aaron. ⁴ And he received *them* at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ⁵ And when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow *is* a feast to the LORD. ⁶ And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

A. The Impatience of the People (vs. 1)

1. The people's doubt – "we wot not what is become of him"

The people grew impatient because they were looking at the circumstances not trusting God's Word.

Therefore doubt set in.

G. Campbell Morgan once said:

"Waiting for God is not laziness. Waiting for God is not going to sleep. Waiting for God is not the abandonment of effort. Waiting for God means, first, activity under command; second, readiness for any new command that may come; third, the ability to do nothing until the command is given."

2. The people's demand – "up make us gods"

B. The Idolatry of the People (vs. 2-6)

Exodus 32:2-6

² And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which *are* in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring *them* unto me. ³ And all the people brake off the golden earrings which *were* in their ears, and brought *them* unto Aaron. ⁴ And he received *them* at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These *be* thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. ⁵ And when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow *is* a feast to the LORD. ⁶ And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

Illustration:

A little girl came home from Sunday school. "What did you learn today?" her father asked. She responded, "All I heard was that the children of Israel did this and the children of Israel did that. Didn't the grown-ups do anything?"

1. The creating of the calf (vs. 2-4)

God gave them artifacts of gold etc. as they left Egypt and they were to be used for His glory!

Both men and women wore these ornaments, and we may suppose that these were a part of the spoils which they brought out of Egypt.

Too often:

- People give their talents to the world
- Their money to worldly vice
- Use their opportunity and position for personal gain

2. The carousing of the people (vs. 5-6)

Exodus 32:5-6

⁵ And when Aaron saw *it*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow *is* a feast to the LORD.

⁶ And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

Note: Music

Exodus 32:17-18

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. 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.

- Aaron's proclamation (vs. 5)

Aaron was trying to point people to the true God, using Egyptian methods. The formal system of worship that God was giving to Moses was not yet established, the possible intention was right, but the wrong method.

1 Corinthians 10:21-22

²¹ Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

²² Do we provoke the Lord to jealousy? are we stronger than he?

2 Corinthians 6:15-17

¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

- The People's Actions (vs. 6)

They started with some spiritual actions but then from there it only got worse.

They rose up to play – to laugh, mock, play, to jest, to sport, play, make sport, toy with, make a toy of.

1 Corinthians 10:6-7

⁶ Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. ⁷ Neither be ye idolaters, as *were* some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

May this church house always be a holy place of worship, not a play house for immature believers.

3. A GRACIOUS JUDGMENT (EXODUS 32:30-33)

Exodus 32:30-33

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. ³¹ And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 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. ³³ And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

A. The Prayer of Moses

- He intercedes for the people
- He pleads on behalf of the people—verses 31–32a

B. The Problem of Moses

- He cannot save those people (vs. 33)

Exodus 32:33

³³ And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

No man can offer reconciliation.

Hebrews 10:9-14

⁹ Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. ¹⁰ By the which will we

are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. ¹¹ And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: ¹² But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; ¹³ From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. ¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

Close:

Acts 4:12

¹² Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.