

Exodus 32 – The Golden Calf

February 12th, 2021

Study Guide

Pray: Ask God to help you see and hear His word rightly and ask Him to reveal himself to you as you read through the designated chapters this week.

Read through **Exodus 32**. Then, **reflect** upon what you read as you consider the study questions.

1. When the Israelites “saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain”, how did they respond (**verse 1**)?
2. **Verse 2** seems to indicate that Aaron gave in quickly to the people’s request to “make us gods who will go before us.” Why do you think Aaron went along with the people’s request?
3. After making an idol of gold cast in the shape of a calf, Aaron announced “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord” (**verse 5**). As we saw in Exodus 24, burnt offerings were to remove sin and declare total dedication to the Lord. Peace offerings were to celebrate forgiveness and honor the Lord. What makes the Israelites’ actions before the golden calf so appalling?
4. List the arguments Moses makes as he pleaded with the Lord his God to change His mind about destroying the Israelites (**verses 11-14**).
5. What does **Exodus 32:9-14** tell us about Moses?

6. What does **Exodus 32:9-14** reveal to us about the Lord?

7. How does Moses initially respond after approaching the camp and seeing with his own eyes what the people are engaged in? (**verses 19-20**)

8. When Moses confronts Aaron with this great sin, he tries to talk his way out of trouble. How do Aaron's explanations compare with that of Adam and Eve in **Genesis 3:12-13**?

9. After Moses destroyed the calf and rebuked Aaron, he stood at the entrance to the camp and cried out, "Whoever is on the Lord's side, come to me!" The call went out to everyone but only the Levites responded. The purging that followed was painful but necessary.

Considering their actions in **verses 27-28**, how did the Levites literally fulfill Jesus' statement in **Matthew 10:37**?

10. What reassurance is given to Moses with God's command, "Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of" (**verse 34**)?

Personal Reflection and Prayer

Moses appealed to God on the basis of His love, His plan, and His unchanging character. He has always been compassionate and merciful. He is always faithful. He keeps His promises. Think of a situation you are currently praying for. Can you pray like Moses, reminding God of His promises? (He hasn't forgotten, but it will do your heart good to remember.) Write out a simple, specific prayer for the situation currently on your heart.