

## Out of Bondage onto Promise

### Exodus 32:15-35

- Moses is up in the clouds with God enjoying sweet fellowship, Having been told in great detail exactly how God wanted the Tabernacle to look and function, from what would be inside and how it would look on the outside not one detail was left for man's imagination to take over. Also God has entrusted Moses with the Ten Commandments written by The Lord Himself Ex 31:18. Now while all that is going on in the clouds Moses is informed by the Lord that the people are rebelling in the wilderness, so Moses hustles down the Mountain and sees the people sinning.

### V15-35

- **V15-18** Moses had just interceded on behalf of the people and saved their lives now upon coming down from the mountain he can hear the blatant idolatry, sexual immorality, blatant disobedience that the people was engaging in so much so that Joshua said it sounded like war was going on in the camp, but Moses knew exactly what it was "**the pleasure of sin**".
- In **Ex 24** Moses, Joshua, Aaron, his sons, and seventy elders went up the mountain to receive instructions from the Lord, **Ex 24:10** says they saw the Pre-incarnate Jesus Himself, then Moses and Joshua went up further until Moses Himself went into the clouds to meet with God. How did Aaron, and the elders go from seeing the Lord to making a false god, and participating in false worship? They go out of position, as soon as they left their place off the mountain they became susceptible to sinful suggestions, notice Aaron wasn't in ear shot of any godly requests.
- **V19 Ex 32:10** says God's anger was "**Hot**" meaning it was boiling over, and God threatened to destroy Israel and make a people from Moses line, but Moses interceded and God relented from annihilating them. Now Moses sees what God had already saw and he now feels the same way as God does, as he gets so upset that he takes the Ten Commandments and throws them hitting the base of the mountain breaking them into pieces, that is how angry this scene made him.
- I want you to think about this for a moment, as Moses is heading down the mountain he's carrying the greatest possession in mankind's history "**The Written Word of God**". It has taken him over **80** years to even get to this point in his life, he would have fought with every breath in his body no matter if it was a lion or a gang of thieves to preserve these two tablets that he was carrying, so for him to throw these toward the Mountain shows how truly upset seeing what he saw made him. Have you ever been so shocked at what you've seen that nothing else mattered?
- **V20-21** a few chapters earlier Israel had told God that all that He had said they would do, but now they have broken that Covenant by their idolatry, and immorality with the Golden calf. So Moses takes the golden calf and burns it with fire, grinds it to powder, and if that wasn't enough makes the people drink it, this shows Moses goal as a leader was not popularity but Godliness.

- It's amazing how the Church has turned to passivity as an acceptable response to overt sin and then is shocked at the lack of power in confronting and resisting sin. If I had a dollar for every time I have heard of a Pastor being called harsh or unloving because they didn't conform to some sinful behavior or attitude displayed by someone in the church I'd be a rich man.
- After dealing with the people Moses confronts the main person responsible who should have put a stop to it (Aaron). A sinful plan doesn't have to originate with you, but you still have a responsibility to withstand it and not go along with it. You certainly should not have your name attached to it, as you give it credibility when you do, which is why Moses confronts Aaron.
- **V22-24** remember Moses left Aaron in charge according to **Ex 24:14**, and in answering Moses we see three things that are very telling in Aaron's character > **1<sup>st</sup>** He is more concerned with Moses reaction than sinning against God **V22, 2<sup>nd</sup>** He blame shifts and appeals to Moses using the bro code "**you know the people bro**" **V22, 3<sup>rd</sup>** He lies trying to avoid responsibility "**the calf just popped out**" **V24**, you have to ask yourself did Aaron actually think these excuses were acceptable, did he really think Moses would say Oh, I understand, they put you in a tough spot.
- The real problem here was Aaron was trying to appease the people instead of leading the people, something else Aaron did by making a golden calf is it was one of the Egyptians favorite idols (cow) so in doing this Aaron was trying to be relatable and seeker friendly and it showed a major character flaw that many possess today (people pleasing) > **Prov 29:25**.
- **V25-26** scripture says the people were "unrestrained" there is no greater danger today than for people to cast off restraint and do whatever seems right in their own eyes. Here "**unrestrained**" meant they were naked, and running around committing sexual immorality with whomever they felt like, in doing this they thought they were free but scripture says it was to their shame. In **Prov 29:18** it says "**where there is no revelation "vision" or attention to the Word of God, the people then cast off all moral restraints, and become ungovernable**".
- Moses issues a challenge saying "**whoever is on the Lord's side come to me**" he gives the people of Israel the opportunity to stand for the Lord, even those who may have been sinning, they can repent and begin anew. Only the Levites sided initially with Moses and stood by his side, you know being on the lord's side requires three things > **1. Decisiveness 2. Action 3. Separation.**
- **V27-29** Moses tells the Levites to take up the sword and execute all who participated in the worship of the golden calf and are unrepented and it costs **3,000** their lives. **V30-32** the rest Moses intercedes on their behalf and asks the Lord to forgive them for their transgressions, even including himself in the equation by saying if God wouldn't forgive them then include him in His judgment. **V33-35** God agrees to spare the nation as a whole but reserves the right to judge individual sinners, and as we see sin costs, it divides, and its very bitter.