



"Absence From God"

Pastor Jason West | October 8, 2023

Shiloh Community Church

I. We Fall Away When

A. When We Listen to the _____

Exodus 32:1a "When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him ..."

B. When We _____ God

Exodus 32:1b "make us gods who shall go before us."

C. When We Don't Trust God's _____ and Purposes

Exodus 32:1c "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."

D. When We Don't Use Our _____ and Talents to Glorify God

1. The Gifts

Exodus 32:2-3 "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.' So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron."

2. The Talents

Exodus 32:4 "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!'"

E. When We _____ What God Has Done for Us

Psalms 106:19-22 "They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a metal image. They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass. They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea."

F. When We Exchange the Truth About God for a Lie

Romans 1:25 "because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen."

G. When We Long For Our _____

Exodus 32:5-6 "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.' 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."

II. Dealing With the _____ of Sin

A. God _____ Their Sin (Exodus 32:7-8)

B. God Warns of _____ (Exodus 32:9-10)

C. Moses _____ For Them (Exodus 32:11)

1. Lord, You Have Been Working in Them Through Your Power (Exodus 32:11; Philippians 1:6)

2. I Want the World to Know this God of Grace (Exodus 32:12)

3. I Will Speak of God's _____ and Faithfulness (Exodus 32:13)

D. God Answers _____! (Exodus 32:14)

E. God Sends Moses _____ the Holy Mountain to the People (Exodus 32:15-18)

F. Moses Demonstrates How the Law is _____ (Exodus 32:19)

G. Idols Cannot Be _____ (Exodus 32:20)

H. Sin is Confronted (Exodus 32:21)

1. Aaron's _____ Illustrate How NOT to Confess

a. Relax, Don't Be So Angry About This (Exodus 32:22a)

b. They Made Me Do It (Exodus 32:22b-23a)

c. It's Really Someone Else's _____ (Exodus 32:23b)

d. I Don't Really Have Any _____ to This (Exodus 32:24, 35)

2. Our Excuses For Sin Sound Ridiculous to God

3. Take the _____ (Psalm 51:3-4)

I. Draw a Line in the Sand (Exodus 32:25-29)

J. A _____ is Needed (Exodus 32:30-32)



October 8, 2023

1. Familiarize Yourself With the Passage

- a. Read Exodus 32
- b. Read the context around the narrative
- c. Note repetition of words, content, and ideas

2. Literary Context

a. Literary Context: By the time we get to chapter 32, the covenant has been confirmed (Exodus 24) and the plans for the ark of the covenant, table of show bread, golden lampstand, bronze altar, court of the tabernacle, and tabernacle have been communicated and shared with the people (Exodus 25-27). In addition, the priest's garments, consecration of the priests, altar of incense and bronze basin have been shared also with the people (Exodus 28-30). In other words, everything that is needed to set up the sacrificial worship system has been relayed to the Israelites. Further, the stone tablets that witness (Exodus 31:18) the covenant agreement between Israel and God have been made as a sign that the covenant is established and the relationship is set. In other words, the sin of the golden calf happened just after the covenant was made, which shows us the inability of humans to keep a covenant with God. We not only sin grievously in our sin-nature, but we sin quickly (Isaiah 59:7). Note Exodus 32:22, "You know the people, that they are set on evil."

b. Historical/Biblical Context: Why did the covenant have to be renewed in Chapter 34 if it was completed in 31:18? It may be easy to conclude that Moses was just angry when he threw the tablets after the people worshipped the golden calf and the broken tablets are a sign of his heated anger (Exodus 32:19). However, the broken commandments were actually a sign that the covenant had been broken and signifies annulment of the agreement.¹ Israel violated the terms of the covenant, resulting in a broken covenant, and now a renewal of the covenant in Chapter 34 is necessary. Thank the Lord that the covenant under Christ was completely fulfilled, and its accomplishment is not dependent upon fickle rebellious humans.

3. Questions About the Passage

a. In verses 11-14 Moses pleaded with God to spare the people of Israel. In verses 15-20, Moses almost seems to completely change his mind as it says, "Moses' anger burned hot..." (v. 19). Why does Moses' attitude change so quickly? Why did seeing the idolatry set a switch off in Moses as opposed to when God simply told him about it in the earlier verses?

b. In what ways does Moses step into the role of mediator in this chapter?

c. How is Aaron culpable for the sin of the golden calf? How did Aaron fail in his leadership?

d. The making of the golden calf is an obvious violation of the second commandment. However, why is a violation of the second commandment such an offense to God (it would appear they were still attempting to worship God according to verse 5)?

e. What qualities do you see in Moses' mediatory work in verses 30-34 and how does that point you to Christ?

4. From the Passage to Life

a. There are a lot of references in chapter 32 about Israel's sin and their wickedness (verses 9, 21, 22, 30, 31, 34). Paul provides similar statements about our sin in Romans 3:11-18. How do you see your sin working itself out, maybe in similar ways to the Israelites?

b. The deeper we venture into our sin, the more ugly things we see that may cause depression or other things in our lives. However, after Paul got done talking about his sin in Romans 7, what was his response in verse 25? How does going deeper into your sin help you see God's grace more clearly and powerfully?

c. Moses' intercessory actions in verses 30-34 are a foreshadowing of Jesus' intercessory office in the New Covenant. How has Jesus been interceding on your behalf that infuses thanksgiving into your heart (answered prayer, forgiveness of certain sins, examples of compassion or mercy, etc.)?

¹ John Walton, ed. Zondervan Illustrated Bible Backgrounds Commentary, vol. 1 (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2009), 260.