

OLD TESTAMENT STORIES FOR **PERILOUS¹ TIMES**

2 Timothy 3:1-5

MOUNT SINAI: THE GOLDEN CALF

INTRODUCTION

In the third month, after the children of Israel were brought out of slavery by the strong hand of the LORD, they were encamped at the base of Mount Sinai. Moses was then called up into the mountain where he received the Ten Commandments from the hands of the LORD. While Moses was communing with Jehovah a great rebellion ensued against Him. In God's righteous anger, He was moved to inflict His Divine vengeance on the camp.

THEME SCRIPTURE

They [the children of Israel] have turned aside quickly out of the way which I [God] commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' (Exodus 32:8)

¹ PERILOUS - Greek *chapelos* reducing strength: difficult, dangerous, furious, fierce, savage.

SECTION I - Fashioning of the Golden Calf

READ Exodus 32:1-6.

1. What did the children of Israel request of Aaron²? Why (v. 1)? _____

2. In order to appease the crowd what did Aaron instruct the people to do (vv. 2, 3)? _____

3. How did Aaron personally participate in the people's rebellion against God (v. 4a)? _____

3

4. What did the children of Israel declare about the calf (v. 4b)? _____

5. What did Aaron build and what did he proclaim about the golden calf (v. 5)? _____

6. How did the children of Israel readily respond (v. 6)? _____

4

² Aaron - Hebrew *light bringer*: older brother of Moses who was his spokesman in Egypt; a Levite who became the first High Priest.

³ fashioned - Hebrew *to cramp*: to confine, to cast.

⁴ play - Hebrew *tsachag* to laugh: carouse, mock, scorn, suggests sex play; therefore implies drunken orgies.

SECTION II - The Wrath of God

READ Exodus 32:7-14.

1. God saw that the children of Israel had forsaken Him. What did He command Moses? Why (vv. 7-9)?

2. What was God's intention toward the people and toward Moses (v. 10)? _____

3. How did Moses plead⁶ for the children of Israel (vv. 11-13)? _____

⁵ stiff-necked - Hebrew *qashch* severe: hard-hearted, stubborn, obstinate.

⁶ plead - Hebrew *chalah* entreat: implore someone's favor.

4. In his abundant mercy, God turned from His wrath and led Moses to intercede for His people. What was the out-come (v. 14)?

7

SECTION III - The Writing of God

READ Exodus 32:15, 16.

1. What did Moses carry with him down from the mountain? DESCRIBE them (v. 15). _____

8 9

2. WRITE out verse 16. _____

LOOK DEEPER

What did God engrave on the Tablets of the Testimony? READ Exodus 20:2-17 and WRITE them out.

⁷ relented - Hebrew *nacham* to be sorry: move to pity, have compassion for others.
⁸ tablets - Hebrew *luach* to glisten: of stone, wood or metal.
⁹ Testimony - Hebrew *Eduth* witness: the ten words on the tablets as a solemn Divine charge; the Ten Commandments.

PERSONAL

Which are the hardest for you to obey? WRITE a prayer to God to enable you through His Spirit to obey Him.

SECTION IV – Revelry in the Camp

READ Exodus 32:17-24.

Joshua, Moses' assistant, had accompanied Moses up into the mountain to meet with the LORD (Exodus 4:13-18). But Moses alone went into the midst of the cloud to talk to the LORD.

1. As Moses and Joshua descended from the mountain, what did Joshua say he heard (v. 17)? _____

2. How did Moses clarify the noise in the camp (v. 18)? _____

10

3. What did Moses do in his righteous anger when he came down to the camp and saw the calf and the dancing (vv. 19, 20)? _____

¹⁰ singing - Hebrew *anah* looking down: make yourself low in worship, humble yourself.

4. How did Moses question Aaron (v. 21)? _____

5. How did Aaron shift the blame on the children of Israel (vv. 22, 23)? _____

6. How did Aaron relay how the calf came to be (vv. 24)? _____

What important detail did Aaron leave out of how the calf came to be (Exodus 32:3, 4)? _____

PERSONAL

How have you twisted the truth to cover your sin? _____

SECTION V – Divine Vengeance

READ Exodus 32:25-29.

1. What did Moses observe about the people (v. 25a)? _____

11

Who was to blame for their lewd behavior (v. 25b)? _____

2. How did Moses divide the camp (v. 26)? _____

3. What did Moses instruct the sons of Levi to do (vv. 27, 28)? _____

How many people fell that day? _____

4. After God's Divine vengeance upon the sinful, what did Moses then instruct the people to do (v. 29)?

SECTION VI – Moses' Intercession

READ Exodus 32:30-35.

1. What did Moses then offer to do for the people (vv. 30, 31)? _____

2. What was Moses willing to do to make atonement¹² for their sin (v. 32)? _____

¹¹ unrestrained - Hebrew *para* loosen: move restraints; to expose; make naked; uncovered.

¹² atonement - Hebrew to cover: to cover over sin without a sacrifice.

3. It was not Moses' place to make atonement. Who would God blot out of His book instead (v. 33)?

4. How did God encourage Moses (v. 34a)? _____

5. How would God deal with the peoples' sin (vv. 34b, 35)? _____

SECTION VII – Rewriting of the Tablets

READ Exodus 34:1-9.

1. What were God's instructions to Moses (vv. 1-4)? _____

2. Moses obeyed fully what God had commanded him to do and stood with the two new tablets in hand; then the LORD descended in a cloud and stood with him. What all did the LORD proclaim about Himself (vv. 5-7)?

¹³ Your book which You have written: the Book of Life (Revelation 3:5).

¹⁴ the place of which I have spoken: the Promise land, READ Exodus 3:17.

¹⁵ plagued - Hebrew *nagaph* strike: push against.

3. How did Moses accept God's Divine favor (vv. 8, 9)? _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE out the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(Exodus 32:8)

*Then he said, 'If now I have found grace in Your sight,
O Lord, let my Lord, I pray go among us,
even though we a stiff-necked people;
and pardon our iniquity and our sin,
and take us as Your inheritance.'*

Exodus 34:9

NOTES: _____

If you wish to receive any of the studies on
OLD TESTAMENT STORIES FOR **PERILOUS TIMES** write to:

Somebody Loves You Publishing, 22324 Golden Springs Drive, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
(909) 396-1884 FAX: (909) 396-0553 Email: slymg@calvarygs.org
Or you may download it from our website at www.calvarygs.org

All Scripture found in this study is from the New King James Bible unless noted otherwise.
Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
His holy name and His Word have been capitalized.
This study may not be altered in anyway.
©2015 Prepared by: Somebody Loves You Publishing