

## EXODUS 32

# *The Golden Calf*

*“Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron and said to him, ‘Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him’” (Exodus 32:1).*

### **Making the Golden Calf (32:1-10)**

- The people ask Aaron to make a “god” for them (32:1)
- Aaron collects gold from the people and makes a golden calf (32:2-4)
- Aaron builds an altar and proclaims a feast (32:5)
- The people offer sacrifices and celebrated (32:6)
- God tells Moses what the people had done (32:7-8)
- God tells Moses He would destroy the people and make a great nation through Moses (32:9-10)

### **Moses Intercedes for the People (32:11-14)**

- Moses pleads for the people, reminds God that He delivered them from Egypt (32:11)
- Moses says that destroying the people would cause the Egyptians to speak evil of God (32:12)
- Moses reminds God of His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (32:13)
- God changes His mind about destroying the people (32:14)

### **Moses Returns from the Mountain (32:15-35)**

- Moses goes down with the stone tablets (32:15-16)
- Joshua and Moses discuss the noise in the camp (32:17-18)
- Moses sees the calf and the dancing; in anger, he throws down and shatters the stone tablets (32:19)
- Moses ground the golden calf to powder, scatters it over the water (32:20)

- Moses confronts Aaron about this sin (32:21)
- Aaron attempts to justify his actions (32:22-24)
- Moses calls those who are “*for the Lord*” to come to him; sons of Levi respond (32:25-26)
- Moses tells the sons of Levi to punish the people (32:27-28)
- Moses tells them that they must dedicate (consecrate, KJV) themselves to the Lord to be blessed (32:29)
- The next day, Moses addresses the people about their sin (32:30)
- Moses asks the Lord to forgive the people (32:31-32)
- God tells Moses to lead the people as He directed; says they will be punished for their sin (32:33-35)

***Questions on Exodus 32:***

Why did the people want Aaron to make a god for them?

When God told Moses He would destroy the people, how does He say He will raise another great nation?

In what way did Aaron’s account of the events differ from what actually happened? (compare v. 22-24 with v. 1-4)

What group of people sided with Moses?

What does Moses ask God to do if He will not forgive the people?

## EXODUS 33

### *The Journey Continues*

*“For the Lord had said to Moses, ‘Say to the sons of Israel, ‘You are an obstinate people; should I go up in your midst for one moment, I would destroy you. Now therefore, put off your ornaments from you, that I may know what I shall do with you’” (Exodus 33:5).*

#### **The People are Told to Depart (33:1-6)**

- God tells Moses to depart for the promised land (33:1-2)
- God says He will not go up in their midst because they are an obstinate people (33:3)
- The people mourn when they hear God’s word (33:4)
- God tells them to put off their ornaments; they obey (33:5-6)

#### **The Tent of Meeting (33:7-11)**

- The tent of meeting was pitched outside of the camp (33:7)
- When Moses went out to the tent, the people would arise and stand, the pillar of cloud would descend on the tent, and the people would worship (33:8-10)
- The Lord spoke to Moses “*face to face*” (33:11)
- When Moses returned, Joshua remained at the tent (33:11)

**Moses Entreats the Lord (33:12-23)**

- Moses asks the Lord that he might know His ways (33:12-13)
- God promises to go with them and give them rest (33:14)
- Moses asks the Lord not to lead them from there if He does not go with them; the Lord agrees (33:15-17)
- Moses asks the Lord to show him His glory (33:18)
- God tells Moses that He will make His goodness pass before him, but that he would not be able to see the Lord's face (33:19-23)

***Questions on Exodus 33:***

What did the Lord say that caused the people to mourn?

Who stayed at the tent of meeting when Moses was not there?

Why would God not show His face to Moses?

## EXODUS 34

### *The Covenant is Renewed*

*“Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘Write down these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel’” (Exodus 34:27).*

#### **Two Tablets are Replaced (34:1-9)**

- God tells Moses to cut two new stone tablets and return to the top of the mountain alone (34:1-3)
- Moses cuts two stone tablets, returns to the mountain (34:4)
- The Lord descends in the cloud and passes by Moses (34:5-7)
- Moses bows down to worship (34:8)
- Moses asks that the Lord go with them, pardon their sin, and take them as His own possession (34:9)

#### **God Restates the Covenant (34:10-28)**

- The Lord makes the covenant, promises to provide them with miraculous help (34:10)
- God tells them to obey and He will drive out the inhabitants of the land (34:11)
- They are to make no covenant with the people of the land or worship their gods (34:12-17)
- They are to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread (34:18)
- The firstborn of their sons and the livestock belong to God; their sons are to be redeemed (34:19-20)
- They are to observe the weekly Sabbath (34:21)
- They are to observe the Feast of Weeks and the Feast of Ingathering (34:22)
- All males are to appear before the Lord three times a year (34:23-24)
- Instructions regarding sacrifices (34:25-26)
- The Lord tells Moses to write down His word (34:27)
- Moses is with the Lord forty days and nights (34:28)

### **Moses' Face Shines (34:29-35)**

- As Moses returns, his face shines because he had been with the Lord (34:29)
- Aaron and the sons of Israel are afraid to come near Moses (34:30)
- Moses delivers the words of the Lord (34:31-32)
- Moses puts a veil over his face for the sake of the people; would remove it when he went to speak with God (34:33-35)

### ***Questions on Exodus 34:***

Who made the two new stone tablets?

Why were they not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land of Canaan?

What three times a year were the males to appear before God?

When Moses returned, why were the people afraid to come near him?

## EXODUS 35

### *Work and Contributions*

*“The Israelites, all the men and women, whose heart moved them to bring material for the work, which the Lord had commanded through Moses to be done, brought a freewill offering to the Lord” (Exodus 35:29).*

#### **The Sabbath Law Restated (35:1-3)**

- Moses assembles the congregation to remind them of the Lord’s command (35:1)
- Reminder of the Sabbath law and the penalty for violating it (35:2-3)

#### **A Contribution to the Lord (35:4-9)**

- Moses reminds the people of God’s instructions regarding the contribution for the tabernacle (35:4)
- The contribution was to be given from a willing heart (35:5)
- Items to be contributed (35:5-9)

#### **Skilled Workmen (35:10-19)**

- A call to the skillful men to do the Lord’s work (35:10)
- They are to make the tabernacle and its furnishings (35:11-15)
- They are to make the furnishings for the outer court and its outside curtains/hangings (35:16-18)
- They are to make the garments for the priests (35:19)

#### **The Contribution of the People (35:20-29)**

- The congregation departs from Moses and contributions are brought for the work related to the tabernacle (35:20-21)
- Items that were brought by the people (35:22-28)
- The people brought a freewill offering according to the Lord’s command (35:29)

**The Workmen Called by Name (35:30-35)**

- God calls Bezalel and filled him with wisdom and ability (35:30-33)
- Bezalel and Oholiab are to teach others to aid in the work (35:34)
- They are filled with skill to carry out every work that God had given (35:35)

***Questions on Exodus 35:***

What was the penalty for violating the Sabbath law?

In bringing a “*freewill offering,*” were the people at liberty to bring whatever materials they chose to bring?

What two individuals did God specifically choose to perform and oversee the work that was to be done?



## EXODUS 36

### *Contribution and Construction*

*“And all the skillful men who were performing all the work of the sanctuary came, each from the work which he was performing, and they said to Moses, ‘The people are bringing much more than enough for the construction work which the Lord commanded us to perform’” (Exodus 36:4-5).*

#### **The People’s Contribution Exceeds the Need (36:1-7)**

- Bezelel, Oholiab, and the other skillful persons are called to the work (36:1-2)
- The contributions are received from the sons of Israel (36:3)
- The workmen inform Moses that the people are bringing more than enough for the construction (36:4-5)
- Moses issues a proclamation for the contributions to cease (36:6-7)

#### **The Work of Making the Tabernacle (36:8-38)**

- Making the linen curtains and gold clasps (36:8-13)
- Making the curtains of goats’ hair and bronze clasps (36:14-18)
- Making the outer covering (36:19)
- Making the boards, sockets, and bars (36:20-34)
- Making the veil and pillars (36:35-36)
- Making the screen for the doorway and its pillars (36:37-38)

#### ***Questions on Exodus 36:***

Why were the people told to stop bringing their contributions?

Where in Exodus do we first see the instructions for the items being made in this chapter?

## EXODUS 37

### *Construction Continues*

*“Now Bezalel made the ark of acacia wood; its length was two and a half cubits, and its width one and a half cubits, and its height one and a half cubits; and he overlaid it with pure gold inside and out, and made a gold molding for it all around” (Exodus 37:1-2).*

#### **Construction of the Furniture in the Tabernacle (37:1-29)**

- Making the ark and mercy seat (37:1-9)
- Making the table and its utensils (37:10-16)
- Making the lampstand and its utensils (37:17-24)
- Making the altar of incense (37:25-28)
- Making the anointing oil and incense (37:29)

#### ***Questions on Exodus 37:***

Which of these items was to be placed in the “*holy of holies*”?

Review: How were the items in the holy place to be arranged?  
(See Exodus 26:35; 30:6)

## EXODUS 38

### *The Work is Completed*

*“This is the number of the things for the tabernacle, the tabernacle of the testimony, as they were numbered according to the command of Moses, for the service of the Levites, by the hand of Ithamar the son of Aaron the priest” (Exodus 38:21).*

#### **The Completion of the Tabernacle (38:1-20)**

- Making the altar (38:1-7)
- Making the bronze laver (38:8)
- Making the court (38:9-20)

#### **The Cost of the Tabernacle (38:21-31)**

- The number of the things for the tabernacle (38:21)
- The work was completed by Bezelel and Oholiab (38:22-23)
- Gold used for the tabernacle (38:24)
- Silver used for the tabernacle (38:25-28)
- Bronze used for the tabernacle (38:29-31)

#### ***Questions on Exodus 38:***

What items mentioned in this chapter were to be placed in the outer court?

What three precious metals were used in the construction?

## EXODUS 39

### *Priestly Garments*

*“So the sons of Israel did all the work according to all that the Lord had commanded Moses. And Moses examined all the work and behold, they had done it; just as the Lord had commanded, this they had done. So Moses blessed them”* (Exodus 39:42-43).

#### **Garments for the Priests (39:1-31)**

- Garments made just as the Lord commanded (39:1)
- Making the ephod (39:2-7)
- Making the breastpiece (39:8-21)
- Making the robe (39:22-26)
- Making the tunics, turban, sash, undergarments (39:27-31)

#### **Moses Examines the Work (39:32-43)**

- The work of the tabernacle is completed according to the Lord’s command (39:32)
- All of the items are brought to Moses (39:33-41)
- Restatement of the fact that the work was done according to the pattern (39:42)
- Moses examines the work and blesses them (39:43)

#### ***Questions on Exodus 39:***

Who was to wear the “*holy garments*”?

What was engraved on the plate fastened to the turban?

What did Moses do after examining the work?

## EXODUS 40

### *The Tabernacle is Erected*

*“For throughout all their journeys, the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and there was fire in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel” (Exodus 40:38).*

#### **Instructions Regarding the Tabernacle (40:1-16)**

- The tabernacle is to be set up on the first day of the first month (40:1-2)
- Items to be placed inside the tabernacle (40:3-5)
- Items to be placed in the court outside the tabernacle (40:6-8)
- The tabernacle and all the items are to be anointed with oil (40:9-11)
- Aaron and his sons are to be brought to the doorway of the tabernacle and consecrated to serve as priests (40:12-15)
- Moses does all according to the Lord’s instruction (40:16)

### **Moses Erects the Tabernacle (40:17-33)**

- The tabernacle is erected at the beginning of the second year (40:17)
- The framework goes up – sockets, boards, bars, pillars (40:18)
- The tent and covering is spread over the frame (40:19)
- The ark and mercy seat are brought in and the veil is set up (40:20-21)
- The table is brought in and the bread is arranged on it (40:22-23)
- The lampstand is brought in and is lighted (40:24-25)
- The altar of incense is brought in and incense is burned on it (40:26-27)
- The veil for the doorway is set up (40:28)
- The altar is set up and offerings are made (40:29)
- The laver is placed and filled with water (40:30-32)
- The outer court is erected (40:33)

### **The Glory of the Lord (40:34-38)**

- The cloud covers the tent and the glory of the Lord fills the tabernacle (40:34)
- Moses is not able to enter the tabernacle because of the glory of the Lord (40:35)
- The presence of the cloud indicated when the Israelites would stay or leave (40:36-37)
- The cloud of the Lord on the tabernacle by day and fire by night continued throughout their journeys (40:38)

### ***Questions on Exodus 40:***

When was the tabernacle to be erected?

Why was the tabernacle and its furnishings to be anointed with oil?

What was done to consecrate Aaron as priest?

What item was placed in the tabernacle first?

What happened after Moses finished the work?

What would God do to indicate when the Israelites were to set out from their current location?

## EXODUS

### *Summary*

*“Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11; cf. Romans 15:4).*

#### **Our Study Divided Exodus into Four Sections:**

1. Deliverance from Egypt (Exodus 1-12)
2. Coming to Mount Sinai (Exodus 13-24)
3. Instructions Regarding the Tabernacle (Exodus 25-31)
4. Construction of the Tabernacle (Exodus 32-40)

#### **Major Themes in Exodus**

1. The plan of God – God planned to deliver the Israelites because of His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Exodus 2:24). This was part of God’s plan from the beginning to save us from our sins (Genesis 3:15; 49:10; Deuteronomy 18:15; Acts 2:23; Ephesians 3:11).
2. The power of God – God hardened Pharaoh’s heart so that He could display His power over Pharaoh and the Egyptian gods (Exodus 7:3; 9:14-16; 11:9; 15:11).
3. Deliverance from bondage – The Israelites were in slavery in Egypt (Exodus 2:23) and Moses was sent to deliver them (Exodus 3:10). We were enslaved to sin (John 8:34) and Jesus delivers us from the bondage of sin (John 8:31-32).
4. Obedience to God – God gave the people His law and they vowed to obey (Exodus 24:3). We must obey the law that has been given through Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; John 14:15).
5. Following the pattern – The tabernacle was constructed according to the pattern (Exodus 25:40; 26:30). We are to serve God according to the pattern He has given us (Hebrews 8:5; 2 Timothy 1:13).