

# Exodus 32

Chapter 32 of 40 · 35 Verses · Authorized King James Version

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## **The Golden Calf**

<sup>1</sup> And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

<sup>2</sup> And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

<sup>3</sup> And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

<sup>4</sup> And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.

<sup>6</sup> And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

<sup>8</sup> They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

**9** And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

**10** Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

**11** And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

**12** Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.

**13** Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

**14** And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

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### **Moses' Anger**

**15** And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

**16** And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.

**17** And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.

**18** And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.

**19** And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

**20** And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

**21** And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?

**22** And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.

**23** For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

**24** And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

**25** And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

**26** Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD'S side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

**27** And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

**28** And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

**29** For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to day to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

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### **Moses Intercedes for Israel**

**30** And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

**31** And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

**32** Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

**33** And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

**34** Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

**35** And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

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## HEBREW & GREEK WORD STUDIES

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### **Altar** — מִזְבֵּחַ (Mizbeach)

Altar, place of sacrifice

The Hebrew **mizbeach** (מִזְבֵּחַ) means altar—from the root 'to slaughter.' Altars were places where sacrifices were offered to God, pointing forward to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

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### **Angel** — מַלְאָךְ (Mal'akh)

Angel, messenger

The Hebrew **mal'akh** (מַלְאָךְ) means angel or messenger—a heavenly being sent by God. Angels serve as God's messengers, worship Him, and minister to believers (Hebrews 1:14).

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### **Atonement** — כַּפָּר (Kaphar)

To cover, make atonement

The Hebrew **kaphar** (כַּפָּר) means to cover or make atonement—the basis for Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement). The blood of sacrifices covered sin: 'it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul' (Leviticus 17:11).

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### **Forgive** — נָשָׂא / נָחַם (Salach / Nasa)

To forgive, pardon, lift up

The Hebrew **salach** (נָחַם) is used exclusively of God's forgiveness—divine pardon that only He can grant. **Nasa** (נָשָׂא) means to lift up or carry away, picturing sin being removed.

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**God** — אֱלֹהִים (Elohim)

God (plural of majesty)

The Hebrew **Elohim** (אֱלֹהִים) is a plural form denoting majesty and fullness of deity. Though grammatically plural, it takes singular verbs when referring to the one true God, suggesting the Trinity's plurality within unity.

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**Heaven** — שָׁמַיִם (Shamayim)

Heaven, sky

The Hebrew **shamayim** (שָׁמַיִם) means heaven or sky—God's dwelling place and the realm above earth. 'The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD's' (Psalm 115:16), yet 'the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him' (1 Kings 8:27).

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**Lord** — אֲדֹנָי / יְהוָה (YHWH / Adonai)

The LORD / Lord

When 'LORD' appears in small capitals, it represents the Tetragrammaton **YHWH** (יְהוָה), God's personal covenant name meaning 'I AM.' When 'Lord' appears normally, it's **Adonai** (אֲדֹנָי), meaning 'my Lord,' emphasizing sovereignty.

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**Repent** — שׁוּב / נָחַם (Shuv / Nacham)

To turn back, relent

The Hebrew **shuv** (שׁוּב) means to turn or return—a physical turning that represents spiritual redirection back to God. **Nacham** (נָחַם) conveys grief or relenting, often used of God 'repenting' of judgment.

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**Sacrifice** — זֶבַח (Zevach)

Sacrifice, offering

The Hebrew **zevach** (זֶבַח) denotes a sacrifice or offering—an animal slaughtered for worship. Old Testament sacrifices foreshadowed Christ, 'the Lamb of God' (John 1:29).

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**Sin** — חַטָּאת (Chatta'ah)

Sin, missing the mark

The Hebrew **chatta'ah** (חַטָּאת) means sin—missing the mark of God's standard. It encompasses rebellion, transgression, and falling short of divine holiness.

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**Word** — דָּבָר (Davar)

Word, thing, matter

The Hebrew **davar** (דָּבָר) means word, thing, or matter—God's creative and authoritative speech. 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made' (Psalm 33:6).

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**Wrath** — אַף (Aph)

Wrath, anger

The Hebrew **aph** (אַף) literally means 'nose' or 'nostrils,' idiomatically expressing wrath or anger—God's righteous indignation against sin. Yet God is 'slow to anger' (Exodus 34:6) and 'abundant in mercy.'

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**CROSS REFERENCES**

**Exodus 32:1**    **References God:** Exodus 32:11; Acts 7:40; 17:29; 19:26. **Parallel theme:**

Exodus 13:21; Deuteronomy 9:9; Matthew 24:48; 2 Peter 3:4. **References Moses:** Exodus 14:11; 24:18

## **Exodus 32:4**

**Creation:** Exodus 32:8; Deuteronomy 9:16; 1 Kings 12:28; Nehemiah 9:18; Hosea 13:2; Acts 7:41.

**References God:** Exodus 20:23; Isaiah 46:6; Acts 17:29. **Parallel theme:** Hosea 10:5

**Exodus 32:5** **Parallel theme:** 2 Kings 10:20. **References Lord:** Leviticus 23:2. **Creation:** Leviticus 23:37

**Exodus 32:6** **Parallel theme:** 1 Corinthians 10:7. **Sacrifice:** Numbers 25:2

**Exodus 32:7** **References Lord:** Exodus 19:24; 32:11; Deuteronomy 9:12. **Parallel theme:** Judges 2:19; Hosea 9:9

**Exodus 32:8** **References God:** Exodus 20:23; Judges 2:17. **Creation:** Deuteronomy 9:16; 1 Kings 12:28. **Sacrifice:** Exodus 22:20

**Exodus 32:9** **Parallel theme:** Exodus 33:3; Psalms 78:8; Isaiah 48:4; Acts 7:51. **References Lord:** Exodus 33:5; 34:9; Deuteronomy 9:6; 9:13; 31:27; 2 Chronicles 30:8

## **Exodus 32:10**

**Parallel theme:** Exodus 32:19; Numbers 14:12; 16:22; Deuteronomy 9:14; 9:19. **Judgment:** Exodus 22:24; 32:11

**Exodus 32:11** **Judgment:** Psalms 106:23

**Exodus 32:12** **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 9:28; Joshua 7:9; Psalms 74:18. **Repentance:** Exodus 32:14; Genesis 6:6; Psalms 90:13; 106:45. **Judgment:** Psalms 78:38; 85:3; Zechariah 8:14

**Exodus 32:13** **References Abraham:** Genesis 48:16; Leviticus 26:42; Deuteronomy 9:27; Hebrews 6:13. **Parallel theme:** Genesis 12:7; 15:5; 15:7; 15:18; 22:16; Deuteronomy 7:8

**Exodus 32:14** **Repentance:** 2 Samuel 24:16; 1 Chronicles 21:15; Psalms 106:45; Jeremiah 18:8; 26:13; 26:19; Joel 2:13; Jonah 3:10; 4:2

**Exodus 32:15** **Parallel theme:** Deuteronomy 9:15

**Exodus 32:16** **References God:** Exodus 31:18; 2 Corinthians 3:3; Hebrews 8:10

**Exodus 32:17** **References Moses:** Exodus 17:9; 24:13

**Exodus 32:20** **Creation:** Deuteronomy 9:21

**Exodus 32:21** **Sin:** Genesis 20:9

**Exodus 32:22**

**References Lord:** Deuteronomy 9:24; 1 Samuel 15:24. **Parallel theme:** Exodus 14:11; 15:24; 16:20

**Exodus 32:24** **Parallel theme:** Exodus 32:4

**Exodus 32:25** **Parallel theme:** Isaiah 47:3; Micah 1:11; Revelation 16:15

**Exodus 32:26** **Parallel theme:** Joshua 5:13; 2 Samuel 20:11; 2 Kings 9:32; Matthew 12:30

**Exodus 32:27** **References Israel:** Numbers 25:5. **Parallel theme:** Luke 14:26

**Exodus 32:28** **Word:** Deuteronomy 33:9

**Exodus 32:29** **References Lord:** Proverbs 21:3; Zechariah 13:3. **Parallel theme:** Matthew 10:37

**Exodus 32:30** **References Lord:** 1 Samuel 12:20; Amos 5:15. **Parallel theme:** Numbers 25:13; Jonah 3:9. **Sin:** 1 Samuel 12:23; 2 Samuel 16:12; 2 Kings 17:21. **References Moses:** Numbers 16:47

**Exodus 32:31** **References God:** Exodus 20:23. **Sin:** Exodus 32:30; Daniel 9:8; 9:11

**Exodus 32:32** **Parallel theme:** Psalms 56:8; 69:28; 139:16; Romans 9:3; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 3:5; 17:8; 21:27. **Sin:** Daniel 12:1

**Exodus 32:33** **Sin:** Ezekiel 18:4. **Parallel theme:** Leviticus 23:30; Psalms 9:5; 69:28; Philippians 4:3; Revelation 13:8; 20:12. **References Lord:** Deuteronomy 29:20

**Exodus 32:34** **Parallel theme:** Exodus 23:20; Deuteronomy 32:35; Matthew 23:35

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