

Exodus 32:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Aaron quotes the people's demand **עֲשֵׂה-לֵנוּ אֱלֹהִים** (aseh-lanu elohim, make us gods), emphasizing their initiative not his. His description of Moses as **אִישׁ מֹשֶׁה הַזֶּה** (ish Moshe hazeh, this man Moses) echoes their disrespectful language (v1), distancing himself. The phrase **לֹא יִדְעָנוּ מַה-הַבָּא** **לֹא** (lo yada'nu meh-hayah lo, we do not know what has become of him) repeats their words, suggesting Aaron merely responded to popular panic. But God requires leaders to lead righteously regardless of circumstances—Aaron should have refused and trusted God.

Historical Context

This excuse reveals how easily spiritual leaders rationalize compromise under pressure. Aaron had witnessed all God's miracles yet still feared the people more than God.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. When do you excuse sinful choices by citing others' pressure or demands?
2. How does fear of man prevent courageous spiritual leadership?

Interlinear Text

לְפָנֶיךָ יְכוֹנֵן יְלִכְךָ וְאַשְׁר־אֱלֹהִים יְמַלְּכֶךָ	before
For they said	H559
unto me Make	H6213
us gods	H430
before	H6440
אֲשֶׁר־בָּא־יְשַׁׁלֵּחַ	
us for as for this Moses	H4872
the man	H376
that brought us up	H5927
לְאָזֶן־בָּא־יְשַׁׁלֵּחַ	
out of the land	H776
of Egypt	H4714
we wot	H3045
לְאָזֶן־בָּא־יְשַׁׁלֵּחַ	

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