

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-לָנוּ 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 יָדָעְנוּ מֶה-הָיָה לוֹ** (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

לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וְלִפְנֵי אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל עָשָׂה לִי יְהוָה
For they said H559 H0 **unto me Make** H6213 H0 **us gods** H430 H834 H1980 **before** H6440

הַעֲלֵנוּ אֶת־יִשְׂרָאֵל מִצֵּי־מִצְרַיִם
H3588 H2088 **us for as for this Moses** H4872 **the man** H376 H834 **that brought us up** H5927

לֵאמֹר מִצֵּי־מִצְרַיִם לָנוּ יְהוָה יֵצֵא
out of the land H776 **of Egypt** H4714 H3808 **we wot** H3045 H4100 H1961 H0