

# Exodus 32:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

## Analysis

Moses returns (וַיָּשֶׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶל־יְהוָה vayyashov Moshe el-Adonai) to renew intercession. His cry אָתָּה (anna, Oh!) expresses deep anguish. The repeated phrase חַטָּאת הַעֲמָדֶת (chata ha'am-hazeh chata'ah gedolah, this people has sinned a great sin) emphasizes enormity. The specific sin וְעַשְׂתָּה לְהַמְּלָאֵךְ זָהָב—(vaya'asu lahem elohei zahav, they have made for themselves gods of gold)—is stated plainly before God. Moses doesn't minimize or excuse but confesses fully, prerequisite for atonement. The plural 'gods' (אֱלֹהִים, elohei) may reflect the people's plural declaration (v4) or emphasize the sin's multiplied wickedness.

## Historical Context

Moses' confession before God models proper intercession: acknowledge sin's full reality without excuse or minimization. Only honest confession precedes genuine forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

## Related Passages

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How does your confession before God honestly acknowledge sin's true nature?
2. Why must intercession begin with truthful acknowledgment rather than excuse-making?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיָּשָׁב מֹשֶׁה אֶל יְהוָה וַיֹּאמֶר  
returned And Moses unto the LORD and said  
H7725 H4872 H413 H3068 H559 H577 H2398

אָלָה יְהוָה כִּי גָּדוֹל הָעָם וְעַמְּךָ  
this people sin a great and have made  
H5971 H2088 H2401 H1419 H6213 H0 H430

וְעַמְּךָ כִּי לֹא תְּבִרְכֵנִי  
of gold  
H2091

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 20:23** (References God): Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.

**Exodus 32:30** (Sin): 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.

**Daniel 9:8** (Sin): O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

**Daniel 9:11** (Sin): Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

