

MOSES INTERCEDES FOR THE PEOPLE



The Intercessor Moses

Exodus 32-34

Key verses 32:31,32

32:31,32

**“So Moses went back to the Lord and said,
“Oh, what a great sin these people have
committed! They have made themselves
gods of gold. But now, please forgive their
sin - but if not, then blot me out of the book
you have written.”**

Learning points

- **The seriousness of the sin of idolatry**
- **Intercessor Moses who takes responsibility for his people**

1. The golden calf and Moses intercession (32:1-25)

32:1

“When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.””

The Israelites' sin

- **The Israelites wanted Aaron to make a god who would go before them.**
- **They forgot God's grace.**



The Israelites' sin

- They would give their expensive gold for a god who would accept their sin.**
- Many young people do not want to give their time to God, but they invest it for their momentary pleasure.**

Learning points

- **The importance to hold on to the words of God through daily Bible study.**
- **Not holding on to the words of God caused them to ignore the relationship to God and sin against him.**

Learning points

- **The only way to grow a godly, noble character is discipline in the word of God, that starts with obedience to the word of God.**

32:7

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because **your** people, whom **you** brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt.”

32:10

“Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.”

32:14

“Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.”

What did Moses do?

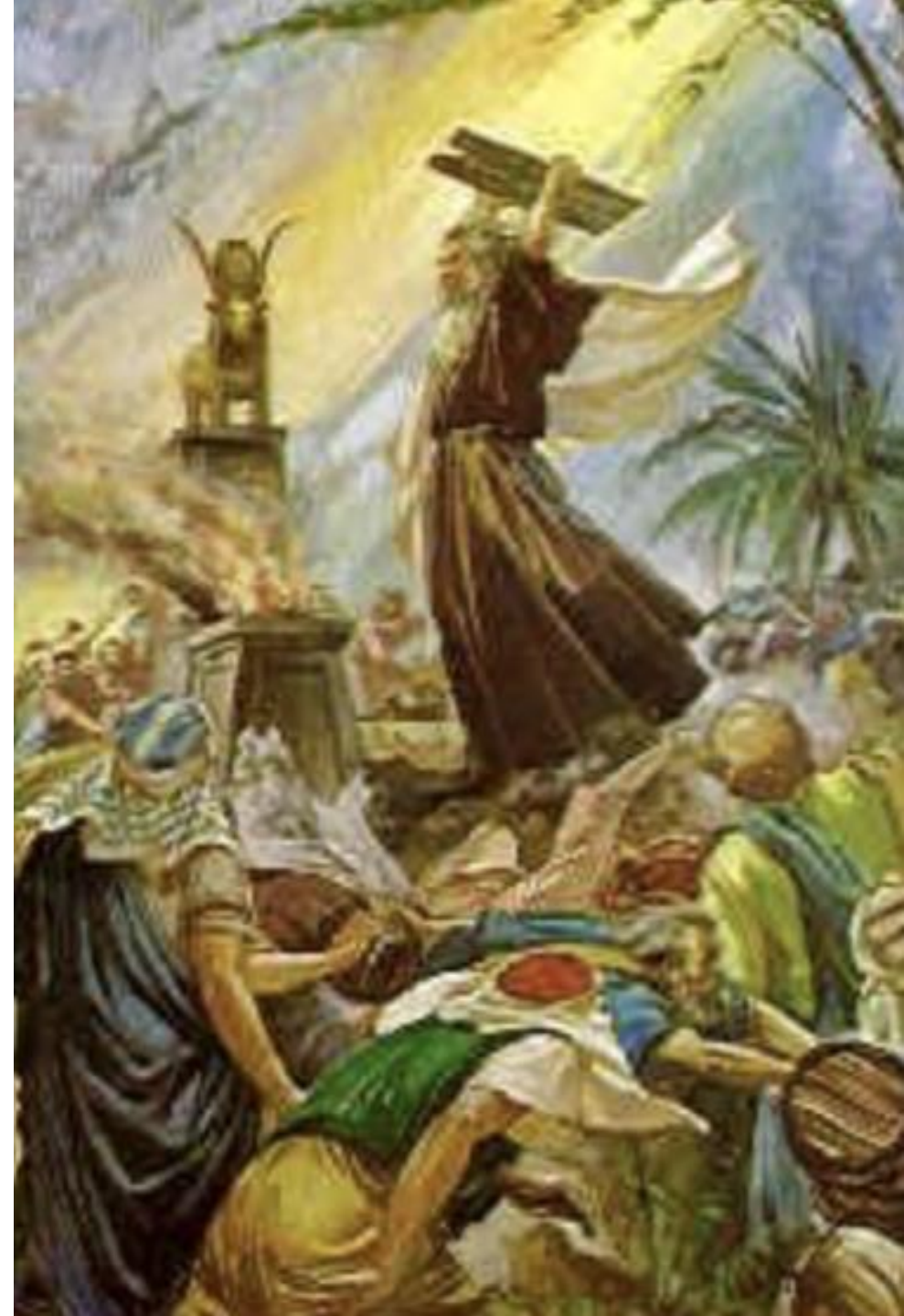
- **He gave up his self-righteousness and take responsibility for his people, even when it was not his mistake.**
- **His prayer was not based on emotions, but on the word of God and the promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (32:13)**

32:19-20

“When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.”

Moses dealt with the sin of idolatry without exception and compromise.

- 1. He took the idol and destroyed it.**
- 2. He rebuked Aaron because of his irresponsibility.**
- 3. The Levites stood on God's side and overcame human thoughts.**
 - They killed 3000 of their brothers.**



Learning points

- **The sin of idolatry has to be treated without compromise.**
- **Cut the idols completely to avoid the serious consequences of sin.**

Lessons from Aaron's sin

- He was the one leading Israel into idolatry.**
- He followed the easy way.**
- The willingness to compromise can have serious consequences.**
- As leaders we have great responsibility to act with spiritual discernment and without compromising.**

32:30-32

**“The next day Moses said to the people,
“You have committed a great sin. But now I
will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make
atonement for your sin.” So Moses went
back to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a great
sin these people have committed! They have
made themselves gods of gold. But now,
please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot
me out of the book you have written.”**

Moses' shepherd heart for his people

- **He did not give up his people.**
- **He wanted to go up to the Lord and seek atonement for Israel's sin.**

Moses' shepherd heart for his people

- **He was ready to be written out of the book of life.**
 - **Even in a hopeless situation he cared for his sinful people and was ready to give his own life.**
 - **John 10:11: „I am the good shepherd, the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.“**

Intercessory prayer moves God's heart.

- Where an intercessor like Moses exist, God does not give up his hope and promise.**
- Jesus was an intercessor for us, because he gave his life so that we could have freedom of sin and eternal life.**

Intercessory prayer of God's servants

- **German students found salvation.**
- **A young girl became a mother of faith.**
- **House churches were built among next generations.**
- **God opened their eyes for God's word so they made a decision to give their lives to Jesus.**

→ Where there is an intercessor, even in regard of sin, and prays as a matter of life and death, there is revival and life change.

2. The God of infinite mercy and compassion (33:1 - 34:45)

33:1-3

“Then the Lord said to Moses, “Leave this place, you and the people you brought up out of Egypt, and go up to the land I promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, saying, ‘I will give it to your descendants.’ I will send an angel before you and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But **I will not go with you, because you are a stiff-necked people and I might destroy you on the way.”**”

Moses' relationship with God

- He built a tent of meeting.**
- The Lord spoke to Moses face to face.**
- It was his earnest wish to see God's glory.**

33:19

“And the Lord said, “I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the Lord, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

34:10

“Then the Lord said: “I am making a covenant with you. Before all your people I will do wonders never before done in any nation in all the world. The people you live among will see how awesome is the work that I, the Lord, will do for you.”

God renews his promise and covenant.

- God forgave them.**
- He renewed his promise.**
- He gave them his commandments.**
- They were to be cautious of idolatry.**

God renews his promise and covenant.

- They should not marry with inhabitants from the Promised Land.**
- They were to give their first fruits to God.**
- They were to keep the Sabbath holy.**
- God gave Moses the tablets the words of the covenant.**

What we learned from this lesson

- Idolatry is serious sin and causes separation from God.**
- Intercessory prayer of God's servants move God's heart.**

What we learned from this lesson

- May God use us as shepherds and responsible leaders.**
- May God use our prayers and sacrifice for young people in these times through Bible study and renew them as a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**

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