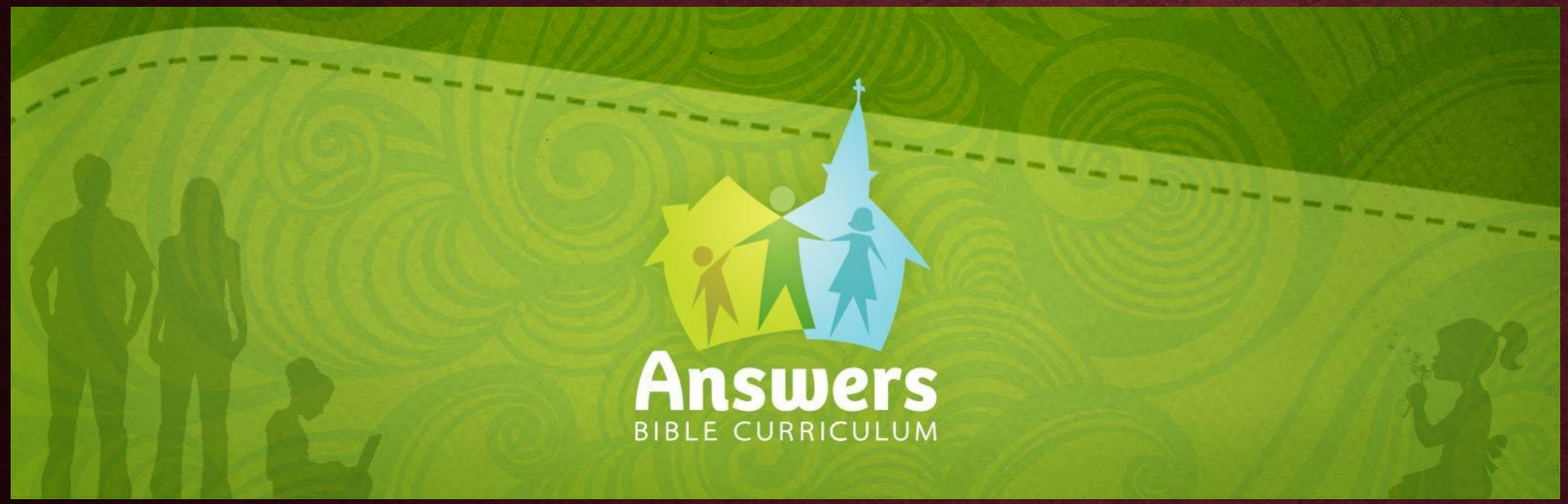
Moses: Minister of the Covenant

LESSON 8: GOD PUNISHES IDOLATRY



Exodus 20:1–3, And God spoke all these words, saying, "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me." (ESV)

EXODUS 32:1–6, OBSERVATION

- Context: Exodus 24:12–18
- "Make us a god!"
- Moses missing
- Golden earrings
- Molten calf
- This is Yahweh?
- A feast to Yahweh: sacrificing, eating, drinking, playing



EXODUS 32:1–6, INTERPRETATION

- Who's really in charge?
- Why is the request "make us a god to go before us" non-sensical?
- What is so tragic about using the earrings to make the golden calf?
- Are the people worshipping Yahweh or a different god?

EXODUS 32:7–14, OBSERVATION

- God informs Moses about Israel's evil
- God's announced intention: I will destroy them all
- "Let me alone"
- Moses intercedes with reasons, asks God to change mind
- God changes his mind, relents judgment

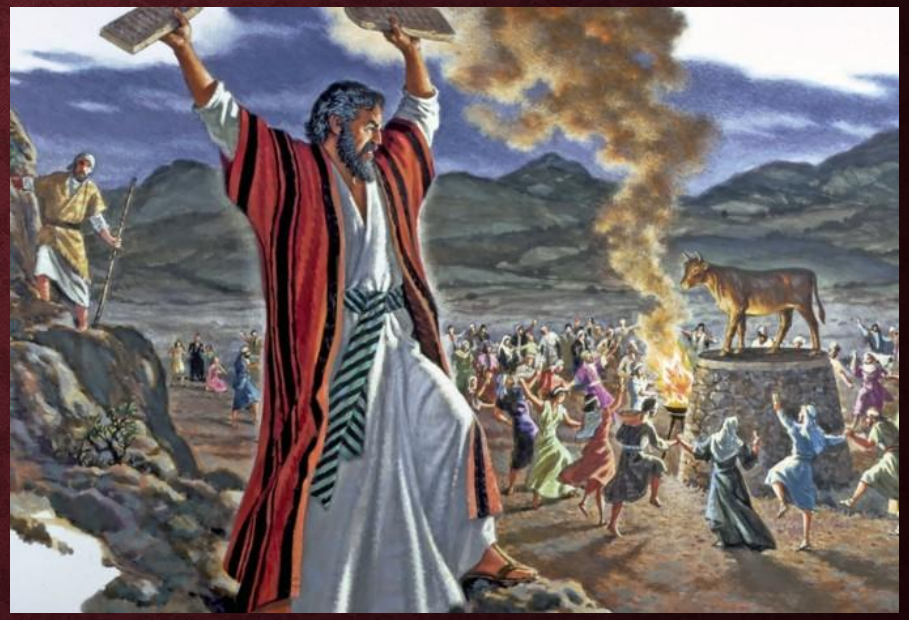


EXODUS 32:7–14, INTERPRETATION

- Why is God's announced intention to destroy Israel an appropriate reaction from God to their sin?
- Why does God grant Moses' request for mercy on Israel?
- How can God change his mind when he is immutable?

EXODUS 32:15–35, OBSERVATION

- Sound of war
- Tablets thrown, shattered
- Moses gets rid of the calf
- Moses confronts Aaron
- Moses restores order via Levites
- Moses intercedes for the people
- “Blot me out”?
- “Smote”?



EXODUS 32:15-35, INTERPRETATION

- Why does Moses throw down the tablets?
- Why does Moses do with the calf what he does?
- What exactly did Moses call the Levites to do?
- Why did Israel need intercession a second time?
- How should we understand Moses' plea in v. 32?
- Is v. 35 describing a subsequent plague?
- Why did Israel ask for an idol?
- What do learn about God from this passage?

EXODUS 32, APPLICATION

1. Beware the jealousy of God
2. Recognize your need for a mediator
3. Intercede for those around you