

Study #2 Bible Reading: Exodus 32:1-4a, 7-16, 19-20

32:1 When the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron. “Come,” they said, “make us gods to lead us. We don’t know what happened to this Moses who brought us out of Egypt.”

2 “Tear off the gold rings that your wives, sons, and daughters have in their ears,” Aaron told them, “and bring them to me.” 3 All the people tore the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron, 4 who took them from their hands and made a metal casting of a calf that he shaped with a chisel.

7 “Go down,” the LORD told Moses. “Your people, whom you brought out of Egypt, are doing a corrupt thing. 8 They have quickly left the way I ordered them to live and made themselves a casting of a calf. They’re worshipping it and sacrificing to it. ‘These are your gods, Israel,’ they say, ‘who brought you out of Egypt.’ 9 I see these people are a stubborn people,” the LORD said to Moses. 10 “Now let Me alone, and My anger will blaze at them, and I’ll consume them. And I will make you a great people.”

11 But Moses pleaded with the LORD his God. “LORD,” he asked, “for what purpose are You so angry with Your people, whom You brought out of Egypt with great might and a strong hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians say, ‘He brought them out only to harm them, to kill them in the hills and destroy them from the earth?’ Turn from Your fierce anger, and relent from the disaster You intend to bring on Your people. 13 Think of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself and promised, ‘I will give you many descendents, like the stars in the sky, and all this land I spoke of I will give to your descendants as their possession forever.’” 14 So the LORD relented from the disaster He thought to bring on His people.

15 Moses turned and went down the mountain, having in his hands the two tablets with the Word of Testimony, written on both sides, the front and the back. 16 God had made the tablets, and God had inscribed the writing on the tablets.

19 When he came near the camp, he saw the calf and the dancing, and Moses got very angry, threw the tablets out of his hands, and smashed them at the foot of the mountain. 20 Then he took the calf they had made, burned it in the fire, ground it to powder, scattered it over the water, and made the Israelites drink it.