

The Calf Which Aaron Made

Exodus 34

Trinity Bible Church - Adult Sunday School Class
“The Birth of the Covenant Nation” – Lesson 14
December 6th, 2020

Background/Overview

- ◆ Overview of the chapter
 - ◆ The people and the Golden Calf
 - ◆ Moses intercession before the LORD
 - ◆ Moses judges the people
 - ◆ Moses intercession before the LORD
- ◆ Background for Israel's idolatry
 - ◆ The giving of the Ten Commandments and the Law (Ex. 20 - 23)
 - ◆ You shall have no gods in my presence
 - ◆ You shall not make any idols
 - ◆ Postscript of the Ten Commandments
 - ◆ Covenant confirmed with Israel (Ex. 24:1-8)
 - ◆ Moses called to the Mountain (Ex. 24:9 - 31:18)

The Idolatry of the People (Vs. 1-6)

◆ The actions of the people

- ◆ Make us gods to go before us... We don't know what has become of Moses
- ◆ The people bring their jewelry to Aaron
- ◆ These are your gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!
- ◆ Offer burnt offerings, ate and drank, and rose up to play

◆ The reactions of Aaron

- ◆ Bring me your jewelry for building materials
- ◆ Aaron fashions the gold into a molten calf
- ◆ Builds an altar before the calf and declares a festival to the LORD
- ◆ Aaron allows them to pursue wickedness to their shame

The Idolatry of the People (Vs. 1-6)

- ◇ What was Israel's sin?
 - ◇ They rejected God's servant Moses
 - ◇ Ex. 32:1b, Acts 7: 38-42
 - ◇ They rejected the presence of the LORD
 - ◇ Ex. 32: 1b
 - ◇ They forsook and forgot the LORD
 - ◇ Acts. 7:39, Ps. 106:19-22
- ◇ What was the result of Israel's sin
 - ◇ Idol worship
 - ◇ God gave them over (Rom. 1:21-23, Acts. 7:41-42)
 - ◇ Participation in a pagan worship festival

The Intercession of Moses (Vs. 7-14)

- ◇ The LORD announces the just consequences for Israel's sin
 - ◇ Separation with God: “..**your** people have corrupted themselves”
 - ◇ Destruction and death: “...That I may consume them in my wrath”
- ◇ The appeals of Moses
 - ◇ Remember the honor and glory of your name (Vs. 12)
 - ◇ Remember your covenant promises (Vs. 13)
 - ◇ Eternal covenant made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- ◇ The LORD relents from destroying Israel
 - ◇ A display of God's incredible mercy and faithfulness
 - ◇ A display of the importance of intercession

Moses and the People (Vs. 15-29)

- ◇ Moses' immediate response to Israel's idolatry
 - ◇ Breaks the tablets of the ten commandments
 - ◇ Makes Israel drink of the destroyed calf
- ◇ Moses responds to Aaron
 - ◇ Aaron's responsibility for Israel's sin
 - ◇ Aaron's excuse
- ◇ Punishment for the people
 - ◇ Levites answer call to judge
 - ◇ Sent throughout the camp to kill the guilty
 - ◇ No relationship to stand in the way of judgment

The 2nd Intercession of Moses (Vs. 30-35)

- ◆ The need for further Intercession
 - ◆ Some punished but whole nation complicit
 - ◆ Their sins need atonement
- ◆ Moses's plea to God
 - ◆ ...Forgive the sin of the people
 - ◆ If not... punish me instead
- ◆ God's response
 - ◆ Whoever sins, I will blot out of my book (Ez. 18:4)
 - ◆ Lead the people and my Angel will go before you

Notable Contrasts

- ◊ Waiting for our Leader
 - ◊ Israel Vs. the Church
- ◊ The Intercessor for the LORD's people
 - ◊ Moses vs. Christ
- ◊ The Law vs. the Gospel
 - ◊ Horeb vs. the Church
- ◊ God Vs. Man
 - ◊ Man's forgetfulness vs. God's faithfulness
- ◊ Warning Against Idolatry
 - ◊ "The human mind is, so to speak, a perpetual forge of idols." – John Calvin
 - ◊ Worship God as he has revealed himself