

# **THE EXODUS**

## **A God of Gold**

**Exodus 32-34**

**Lesson 11**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School  
November 13, 2011*

# A God of Gold

## Exodus 32-34

- ▶ Spectrum of human experience before God
  - glory rejected to glory revealed
  - Human imagination v. the glory of God
- ▶ Historical Context
  - God's great power
  - God's fearful presence
  - Moses on the mountain – 40 days and nights (Deut. 9:11-12)
- ▶ Biblical Context
  - God's promise to Abraham to bless and make a great nation
  - God's practice of testing – the just shall live by faith

# Exodus 32-34

- ▶ Idolatry (Exodus 32:1-6)
- ▶ The Promise (Exodus 32:7-14)
- ▶ Judgment (Exodus 32:15-35)
- ▶ Intercession (Exodus 33:1-23)
- ▶ The glory of God (Exodus 34:1-9)
- ▶ The Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 34:10-35)

# The life of faith

## ► Waiting for the LORD

- Gen. 49:18. Jacob: “I wait for your salvation, O LORD.”
- Lam. 3:19-33 – “It is good . . . (to) wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”
- Isa. 30:18. “The LORD waits to be gracious . . . blessed are all those who wait . . .”

# The life of faith

## ► Testing

- Gen. 22:1 – God tested Abraham – Heb. 11:17. “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac . . .”
- Deut. 8:1-4 – to know what was in your heart and make you know, we live by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.
- Deut. 13:2-3 – LORD tests to know if you love the LORD your God with all your heart
- “YHWH insisted upon being believed rather than seen.” (Douglas K. Stuart, NAC)
- The just shall live by faith – God’s Word or . . .

# A god of gold (Exodus 32:1-6)

- ▶ Israel failed the “wait test.”
- ▶ Romans 1 – the heart of the natural man
  - not thankful
  - Exchange the glory of God for animal
- ▶ Calvin: Provide a sense of God’s presence
- ▶ Overt idolatry – a god of your own creation
- ▶ Subtle idolatry – an image of the true God
  - The sin of Aaron – and not significantly different from Israel’s sin
  - “A feast to the LORD”
- ▶ Violation of the first 3 Commandments – and the Great Commandment

# The Promise (Exodus 32:7-14)

- ▶ No hope in Israel – rejected by God
  - “Your people”
  - “Corrupted themselves” – Genesis 6:12
  - “Turned aside quickly out of the way”
  - Made a golden calf for worship, sacrifice and thanksgiving
  - Stiff-necked – stubborn
  - “Break loose” = cast off restraint (32:25) (Prov. 29:18)
  - Condemned – Rom. 1:18f.

# Moses intercedes

- ▶ Concern for glory of God primarily
- ▶ Why wrath against your people?
- ▶ Object of His great power (Ex. 6:6-7)
- ▶ Why should Egyptians see “failure” of God?
- ▶ Be merciful because of the promise to the Patriarchs
- ▶ The only hope – the character and work of God



# The LORD relented

- ▶ The LORD does not change (Malachi 3:6)
  - The elect were spared
  - Wrath poured out on the non-elect
- ▶ What value was the prayer of Moses?
  - It reveals the heart of faith
  - God speaks of prayer as effective (James 5:17-18)
  - Moses demonstrated faith in God's Word – “prayed earnestly” (Exodus 32:11; James 5:17)

# Judgment (Exodus 32:15-35)

- ▶ Exodus 6:6 – deliverance by great judgments
- ▶ Moses not opposed to the wrath of God
  - Broken tablets of stone
  - Ground up idol
- ▶ Surprised by grace – Aaron
- ▶ Death by Levitical sword
  - Zeal for the holiness of God
  - Today, ordained for the service of the LORD – Holiness of God honored
- ▶ Atonement sought by substitution
  - Moses offered himself as one approved of God (32:32; see 32:10; 33:12, 13, 17)
- ▶ The LORD sent a plague on the people

# Intercession (Exodus 33:1-23)

- ▶ Moses intercedes for Israel:
  - Exodus 32:11-14; 32:30-34; 33:12-17; 34:9-10
- ▶ The LORD'S proposal: a nation without God
- ▶ A “disastrous word” (33:4)
- ▶ Moses intercedes
  - The place of communion – outside of the camp
  - The sovereign love of God is presumed – 33:12
- ▶ “Show me now your ways”

# Intercession (Exodus 33:1-23)

- ▶ God's response: I will go with you and give you rest
- ▶ The necessity of God's presence
  - God's presence is His favor
- ▶ "Show me your glory" (33:18)
- ▶ God's glory (33:19)
  - Goodness; Name of God; Grace; Mercy
- ▶ Limited access – Cannot see God and live

# The Glory of God (Exodus 34:1-9)

- ▶ A second invitation into the mountain for 40 days
  - Tables of stone – to be re-written
  - Terrible separation – no one can come near to the mountain
  - The glory of God
    - His Name proclaimed
    - Ex. 34:6-7
    - Goodness
    - Wrath
  - Moses appeals for blessing including forgiveness of sin
    - Wants God to be among them
    - No indication he knew how this might occur
  - The believer's hope – that God will find a way to live among His chosen people.

# Mosaic Covenant (Exodus 34:10-35)

- ▶ The Mosaic Covenant renewed (34:27-28)
  - “An awesome thing I will do”
  - Land – provided by the LORD
  - Laws – Same terms as with the original Mosaic Covenant
- ▶ The glory of the Mosaic Covenant (34:29-35)
  - Moses’ face shone
  - Covering after speaking to Israel
  - 2 Cor. 3:12-4:6 –conceal the fading glory

# The Blessing

- ▶ An unworthy people
- ▶ God's obligation to Himself – His Promise
- ▶ A display of God's ways and His glory
- ▶ Face to face communion with God in the flesh
- ▶ The Mosaic Law – awesome, but fading glory
- ▶ The glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ  
(2 Corinthians 4:6)