

# Exodus

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## God Provides the People for His Work 31:1-11

- God called Bezalel to head up the work
  - Filled him with the Spirit of God
  - Filled him with ability and intelligence
  - Filled him with knowledge and craftsmanship
  - God appointed also Oholiab
  - God gave others ability to do various parts of the work.
- As we have seen, God had already provided the people with the material to do the work, now He provides the people with the ability to do the work.
- We can rest assured that God still provides for every aspect of what He is doing.

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## The Pivotal Place of the Sabbath 31:12-17

- A sign between Israel and God that He had set them apart as His people.
- The importance of this observance is seen in the penalty of death for treating the Sabbath as any other day.
- The Sabbath is established as a day of solemn rest, holy to Yahweh.
- This command will never end for the Israelites
- The Sabbath is a sign between God and the people of Israel that their God, Yahweh is the Creator who created the heavens and the earth in six days and rested on the seventh.
- This was part of the plan for Israel to be a showcase for God to bless His people with abundance even as they refrained from work that would be personally profitable on one day per week and thus revealing to the watching world that He is the one true and living God.

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## The egregious sin of the people. 32:1-6

- The people had heard directly from God 40 days before this and the very first thing He said was:
  - <sup>2</sup> "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. <sup>3</sup> "You shall have no other gods before me. <sup>4</sup> "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. Exodus 20:2-6 (ESV)

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## The egregious sin of the people. 32:1-6

- God had given the Book of the Covenant shortly after this which included the original commandments given by God along with further direction.
- Moses read this Book of the Covenant to the people, the people agreed to obey what God had commanded in it and the people had entered into covenant with God through sacrifices and sprinkling blood on the altar and the people.
- Aaron, and probably Hur as well, had gone up on the mountain in the very presence of God. 24:9-11

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## The egregious sin of the people. 32:1-6

- Moses went up on the mountain in the presence of God and left Aaron and Hur in charge. Note they had the Book of the Covenant to reference the commands of God.
- It was in this setting that the Israelites came to Aaron and demanded he make them gods to lead them since they assumed Moses was not returning.
- Keep in mind that all of these people had come from generations who had seen gods depicted in Egypt by statues and drawings.
- Aaron's quick response to their demands shows an epic fail in leadership.

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## The egregious sin of the people. 32:1-6

- Aaron could have appealed to:
  - The Book of the Covenant to remind them of God's commands and their pledge to obey these commands.
  - The way God had revealed Himself to be superior to the false gods represented by animals or images as He defeated every concept of the false gods of the Egyptians during the plagues.
  - How Yahweh had provided for their every need along the way to Sinai.
  - The powerful manifestation of God as He had personally spoke to them 40 days earlier.

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## The egregious sin of the people. 32:1-6

- Aaron's actions provide a classic example of the captivating nature of sin.
  - His capitulation to the sinful request of the people produced a plan to create an idol.
  - Note the description of how he fashioned the idol with a graving tool is remarkably different from his account to Moses. (32:23-24)
  - He proclaimed to the people that this represented the gods that brought them out of Egypt.
  - He made the blasphemous declaration that there would be a feast to Yahweh Whom this image supposedly represented.
  - The people gathered for the celebration the next day with sacrifices, eating, drinking and revelry.

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## God revealed to Moses the sin of the people. 32:7-10

- Punctuates the fact that our sin is never hidden from God.
- God reveals that He can and will wipe them out and start over with Moses in building the nation He promised to Abraham.

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## Moses interceded for the Israelites. 32:11-14

- Moses appeals to the purpose of God in delivering His people from Egypt.
- He appeals to the appearance this would have to a watching world.
- He appeals to the promises of God to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- This is one of the sterling moments in Moses' life. He had the opportunity to be the single person from which the people of God restarts but he instead passionately intercedes for his people. This is leadership in finest form and quite a contrast to his brother Aaron.
- If there was ever a question as the place and power of prayer this should put it to rest.

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## The tablets of the testimony 32:15-16

- <sup>12</sup> The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there, that I may give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” Exodus 24:12 (ESV)
- Moses descended the mountains with these two tablets of the testimony.
- Written on both sides
- Just as God had personally spoken to the who nation of Israel, now He has personally written the instructions on the tablets of stone.

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## Moses’ response to the golden calf 32:17-29

- Made the point of the egregious sin of the people by throwing down the tablets and breaking them.
- Burned the calf, that was probably made of wood and covered with gold, ground it to powder and scattered it over their source of water supply.
- Confronted and rebuked Aaron
- Called for a display of loyalty to Yahweh
- At God’s command, sent the Levites throughout the people with the result that 3000 people were killed.

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