

Chapter 32

- 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount,
the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron,
and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.
- 32:2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.
- 32:3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears,
and brought them unto Aaron.
- 32:4 And he received them at their hand,
and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf:
and they said,
These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.
- 32:5 And when Aaron saw it,
he built an altar before it;
and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.
- 32:6 And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings;
and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.
- 32:7 And the LORD said unto Moses,
Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:
- 32:8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.
- 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses,
I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:
- 32:10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and *that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.*
- 32:11 And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said,
LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?
- 32:12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.
- 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever.

thought: *Surely, God does have a way of opening the motivations of His people. It should be obvious to the reader that, the LORD did not intend, at any time, to destroy the children of Israel. This comes through in verse 32:8, where we see that the LORD sends Moses down to correct the congregation; and we also see the LORD'S overarching motivation portrayed in preceding verses, where He had already commissioned some of the children to make the preparations for the tabernacle, which He had outlined to Moses. Therefore, let us concentrate on continuation, rather than destruction.*

Moreover, this episode could also serve as a good spiritual exercise for Moses; so that, Moses would come to fully know that he is a man on a mission, and that the mission was not him, Moses. Rather, the mission was this: to retain the integrity of the

LORD God's image in the world, even in the face of overwhelming possibility of fame for the certain man, Moses. Moses could have harbored hidden thoughts about becoming another Noah-like person, relative to the children of Israel, the people of God; but, instead, Moses' soul was fortified, by being sheltered in his instruction to serve the LORD, as indicated by the utterances he made from the depths of his soul. Moses affirmed--before God, and for himself--that, he knew what his calling was, and that, too, he would continue this calling, even in the face of a "stiffnecked people".

Looking back to Genesis and man's first encounter with the techniques of Satan, I can imagine that, God had another purpose in presenting this to Moses. Satan was most probably preparing a tidbit for Moses--that of, becoming the new father of the people of God. Rather than let Moses be tempted with this, during a later time when he was with the 'unworthy' people; God raised it in Moses' consciousness, while Moses was standing in a place where he had been given full understanding of God's reasons. While standing with God, Moses was able to access the memories of God's words, and the aura of His presence, to motivate Moses to recognize such a transfer, as being an unworkable solution, overall: and, this recognition was, for Moses, for all time. Thus, Satan was, for ever, neutralized in this temptation . . . not just in Moses, but also in any, and all, mankind, for all time.

Only God can directly create a people of God, or add new members to His family. So, as Moses did; so, too, let us look to God, to rely on the LORD for Him to give us the fortitude to stay the course that is assigned for us.

32:14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

thought: *This probably means only that, as he interacted with Him, the LORD God was well pleased with the fortitude of Moses' dedication to the mission of Israel, as going, even, up to having the will to protect the children of Israel from devastation by God, if this were to ever--which it cannot--become a part of his mission.*

32:15 And Moses turned, and went down from the mount,
and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

32:16 And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.

32:17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted,
he said unto Moses, There is a noise of war in the camp.

32:18 And he said, It is not the voice of them that shout for mastery, neither is it the voice of them that cry for being overcome: but the noise of them that sing do I hear.

32:19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing:
and Moses' anger waxed hot,
and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

32:20 And he took the calf which they had made,
and burnt it in the fire,
and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water,
and made the children of Israel drink of it.

32:21 And Moses said unto Aaron,
What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?

32:22 And Aaron said,
Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.

32:23 For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

32:24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off.
So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

thought: *I am not too happy when I read of Aaron's weak reaction to the people. Undoubtedly, Aaron's was not that devotion, to the death, which is often required of a priest of God. At reading this, I wonder what might God have planned for Aaron, or how great a matter it will be for Aaron to obtain the LORD'S forgiveness that he needs for Aaron's not standing resolute for the LORD, his God.*

32:25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked;

(for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

32:26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD's side? let him come unto me.
And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

32:27 And he said unto them,

Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour.

32:28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses:

and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

32:29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

thought: *The LORD God has shown that He is insistent about having a strong core of people, as is required for Israel to move forward in developing this congregation as the nation that will carry the evidence of the LORD'S presence, into the world.*

32:30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people,

Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

32:31 And Moses returned unto the LORD,
and said,

Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.

32:32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--;

and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of **thy book which thou hast written.**

thought: *The conversation with Moses must have gone into more than just the building of the priesthood of God. Moses seems to be giving information that has not yet been stated, up to this point. We have, here, the introduction of the book of God--and, by this introduction, it seems that this is the one wherein is the names of all those who live. . . . and there was probably much, much more which was imparted to Moses' understanding, as he spent the extended period with God.*

32:33 And the LORD said unto Moses,

Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

32:34 Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee:

nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

32:35 *And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.*

thought: *This is the recompense for the children of Israel; it would also seem appropriate that this included Aaron, as well; with both included in the recompense, as being the answer to 33:24, above: but, I would hope that it did not include the families of Moses, Joshua and the others who were loyal to God.*