

# Sabbath School

Exodus | Apostasy and Intercession

Sept 13, 2025

Exodus

Bible Study Guide - 3rd Quarter  
2025

## LESSON 11

*September 6-12*

# Apostasy *and* Intercession



This week's lesson flows from last week's, so I'll add the same memory verse from last week so you'll see the continuity,

Exodus 24:3 KJV

And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and

said, All the words which the LORD hath said  
**will we do.**

*Fast forward 40 days,*

Exodus 32:31-32 KJV

[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] Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

**What did we learn last Sabbath about the stunning failure by the Israelites to obey God?** From last week's lesson,

The ratification of the covenant at Sinai was to reinforce the special relationship that God wanted to have with His people. In the ceremony, the people twice shouted that they would obey God in everything that He required. "All that the Lord has said we will do," they proclaimed. They meant it, too, but they did not know their brokenness, fragility, and lack of power. The blood of the covenant was sprinkled on the people, indicating that only by Christ's merits was Israel able to follow God's instructions.

We do not want to accept that our human nature is fragile, weak, and thoroughly sinful. We have an inherent tendency toward evil. To be able to do good, we must have help from outside ourselves. This help comes only from above, from the power of God's grace, from His Word, and from the Holy Spirit. And even with all this at our disposal, evil still comes so easily to us, does it not?

That's why a close personal relationship with God was as essential to the people then, at Sinai, as it is to us today.

## **Hebrews 8** and the New Covenant *"All will know Me"*

Philippians 4:13 KJV

I can do **all things** through Christ which

strengtheneth me.

John 15:4 KJV

**Abide** in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

Only through a personal relationship with Christ can obedience to God's law come naturally, because we love him.

## **Exodus 32.1-6**

Nevertheless, Moses wasn't gone long and God's people were off chasing *other* gods.

**Why?**

From the opening paragraph,

There could be many answers, and perhaps some truth in them all. Did the people not understand who God really was? Or were their powerful experiences with Him overshadowed by their carnal and sinful desires? Did they not appreciate what God had done for them but, instead, took it all for

granted? Was their understanding clouded, marred by their everyday preoccupations and old sinful thinking? Were they simply ungrateful for God's merciful actions on their behalf? Did they so quickly forget the mighty acts of God?

I think it's probably a combination of all of these reasons. One thing is for sure, they and us as well are **completely helpless** against sin.

**Sunday** | Failed Leadership, Mob mentality





## Exodus 32.1-2

To me, this is one of the most stunning parts of the story. The *people* abandoned Moses, and his own *brother* followed right along! They promptly forgot all that God had done for them and demanded a replacement god.

The shocking part.. Aaron agreed without any

discussion or reasoning with the people. He just basically said, **Ok**, and then proceeded to break the first two commandments. It seems as if he was thinking the same thing the people were? *Modern day example*

## Monday's lesson puts it this way,

The Creation order was reversed: instead of understanding that they had been created in God's image, they now made a god, not even in their own image—which would have been bad enough—but *in the image of an animal*. This was the god whom they wanted to serve? Thus, they had greatly sinned against the Lord ([Isa. 31:7](#); [Isa. 42:17](#)).

Of course this wasn't a new idea for worship, certainly they had learned this from the **heathen nations** around them.

Isaiah 31:7 KJV



For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin.

Isaiah 42:17 KJV

They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.

## Romans 1.18-25

According to the Bible, what's the result of intentional idolotry? "God gave them up to.."

How do you understand  in light of 

Acts 17:29-30 KJV

[29] Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. [30] And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent

**Ellen White** wrote in *Patriarchs and Prophets*,

"Idolatry denies the theological understanding that God is God and man is man. Idolatry erases the gap between God and man (Ecclesiastes 5:2) and breaks the connection



## Exodus 32.7-8

- ≡ ○ Corrupted *themselves*, as opposed to being deceived externally? But certainly demons were among them, encouraging it all
- ≡ ○ Turned aside *quickly*. I wonder how fast we will be turned on by our own people
- ≡ ○ It's bad enough they were worshipping idols, but now they were pretending these idols brought them out of Egypt!
- ≡ ○ God replacement

Isaiah 14:14 KJV

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

**Tuesday's lesson says,**

By turning to idols, like the heathen nations around them, the Israelites were in the process of **divorcing** themselves from the true God, the One who had delivered them from Egypt. **Agree?**

Hosea 1:2 KJV

The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.



**Do we have idols today?** Maybe not golden calves, but what else could *easily* take God's place in our lives?

If God is not at the center of your life, then other gods will fill His place. If we do not enjoy and cultivate God's living Presence, we will enjoy and devote our lives to something or someone else. What we substitute for Christ may have different appearances: pride, self-centeredness, money, power, sex, food, TV, drugs, alcohol, impure thoughts, pornography, pleasures, work, sports, family, video games, films, shopping, ideas, politics, music, position, titles, grades, and so forth. The list has no end.

**Ellen White agrees,**

“Many who bear the name of Christians are serving other gods besides the Lord. Our Creator demands our supreme devotion, our first allegiance. Anything which tends to abate our love for God, or to interfere with the service due Him, becomes thereby an **idol**. With some their lands, their houses, their merchandise, are the **idols**. We are to love the Lord our God with all the heart. Nothing short of obedience to every precept—nothing less than supreme love to God as well as equal love to our fellow man—can satisfy the claims of the divine law.”

*Signs of the Times*, 1882



## **How can we be sure that we're not replacing God in our lives with anything else?**

Matthew 6:24 KJV

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:33 KJV

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Make God first by making Him first in your day. And the last. Alpha and Omega!

Make God first by bringing every life decision to Him in prayer and fasting.

Make God first by making Him a part of all your conversations with everyone.

Make God first by obeying Him completely.

**Manuscript 21, 1899**

"Let every steward understand that as he strives to advance the glory of God in our world, whether he stands before infidels or princes, he is to make God first and last and best in everything. The true Christian will realize that he has a right to his name only as he uplifts Christ with a steady, persevering, and ever-increasing force"

WEDNESDAY

September 10

## God's Righteous Wrath

***Read [Exodus 32:9-29](#). What was Moses' reaction to God's threat to destroy Israel?***

While Moses was still on Mount Sinai, God said that He would destroy the rebels and make Moses' posterity into a great nation. But that was not what Moses wanted. Instead, he pleaded with the Lord, pointing out that the Israelites were not Moses' people—they were God's. He, Moses himself, had not brought them out of Egypt, but God had done it through His mighty works. And so Moses pled with God, stressing His early promises to the fathers. Moses was truly working as an intercessor between God and humanity.

## Exodus 32.9-14

Exodus 32:9-10 KJV

[9] And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: [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.

### What did God mean by this?

But Moses discerned ground for hope where there appeared only discouragement and wrath. The words of God, "Let Me alone," he understood not to forbid but to encourage intercession, implying that nothing but the prayers of Moses could save Israel, but that if thus entreated, God would spare His people. He "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?" {PP 318.3}

When the Lord saw Moses' pure faith and love, he relented. Just like Ninivah. This is a clear example of Intercessory prayer 🙏

**Exodus 32.15 to the end**

Tells the story of Moses confronting the people + his brother Aaron. What was the result?

Moses came down the mountain with the Ten Commandments,

Exodus 32:16 KJV

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

Moses gets super mad at the people, so mad he smashed the Ten Commandments!

Moses puts the blame for the apostasy directly onto his brother,

Exodus 32:21 KJV

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

Aaron then blames the people!

Exodus 32:22 KJV

And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord



wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.

Moses gives the people a choice,

Exodus 32:26 KJV

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.

Consequences.. 3000 are killed.

Repentance, which was ultimately God's Son

Exodus 32:30 KJV

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.



The blind blowing verse,

Exodus 32:31-32 KJV

[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] Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

Compare with,

John 15:13 KJV

Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

How about laying down your **eternal life** for your friends??

<sup>33</sup> And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

**Amen**

