

## Exodus 32:1-6 **Golden Calf**

**1** Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

**2** And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." **3** So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. **4** And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and made a molded calf. Then they said, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

**5** So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD." **6** Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. NKJV

### Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Time delay is a test of commitment to people everywhere, but God wants us to follow His commandments no matter how long it takes.

This concept is true for the Church today as it was at the time at Sinai when Moses spent 40 days and 40 nights with God on the mountain.

Jesus taught the same concept when He gave the illustration of wise and foolish servant of [Matthew 24:45-51](#), and the Ten Virgins of [Matthew 25:1-13](#), and in His statement that "He that endures to the end will be saved" of [Matthew 24:13](#) and many more. The other writers of the New Testament stress the same concept.

- ✧ The Children of Israel had no excuse for their demand for an idol, because:
  - ✧ Moses had already been up the mountain with God and returned safely five times. [[Exodus 19:3, 18:8, 19:20, 20:21](#)]
  - ✧ Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and 70 of the Elders of Israel had been up and saw the God of Israel, they ate and drank before Him and returned safely. [[Exodus 24:9-11](#)]
  - ✧ They had heard the commandment forbidding idolatry directly from the mouth of God five times. [[Exodus 20:3, 20:4-5, 20:23, 23:24, and 23:33](#)]
  - ✧ Moses had recited it to them five times before he went up the mountain for the 40 days and nights including the last time before he wrote them in the book. [[Exodus 24:3](#)]
  - ✧ Moses wrote it in a book and read it to them from the book. [[Exodus 24:4-7](#)]
  - ✧ The People had promised to obey all the words of God 3 times. [[Exodus 19:8, 24:3, and 24:7](#)]
  - ✧ Aaron and Hur were appointed to help anyone who had a problem. [[Exodus 24:14](#)]
  - ✧ They had all witnessed all the things God had done in bringing them out of the land of Egypt, and how He had demonstrated the uselessness of all of Egypt's idols and God's power over nature including the opening of the Red Sea. [[Exodus chapters 7 through 18](#)]
- ✧ Aaron had no excuse for making the golden calf for the same reasons listed above, and he had been a part of the demonstration from the first as he worked with Moses while God brought the plagues against Egypt to deliver the Children of Israel from the bondage in Egypt.

- ☆ Aaron well knew that all they were doing was seen by God and so when he saw that the Children of Israel were claiming that the Golden calf which they had just made was the god that brought them out of Egypt, he attempted to make it a point of drawing their attention back to God as he built an altar in front of it and said, “**Tomorrow is a feast to Yehowah.**”
  - ◇ It is the same as the articles people use today that they worship thinking it brings them to acknowledge God, but God views it as idolatry. [Exodus 32:7-8]
- ☆ The result is the same, the people rose early on the next day, the day Aaron had said was a feast to Yehowah, they offered burnt offerings, brought peace offerings, sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

It is so easy when we have time on our hands to turn to our own pleasure and forget about obeying what God has required of us even when standing at the foot of the mountain where the presence of God is spectacularly displayed in the appearance of a consuming fire. [Exodus 24:17]

Remember, they are still eating Manna and Quail that God is providing for them every day which began when they ran out of provisions and continued until they ate the fruit of the land of Canaan. [Exodus 16:1-35, Joshua 5:12]

God proved that man’s tendency is to gravitate toward Idolatry when He had Moses make the Brazen Serpent when He had sent fiery serpents against the people after they sinned as they were going around the land of Edom. [Numbers 21:4-9]

The Bronze Serpent became a snare to the Children of Israel when they ceased to recognize God and began to worship the image of the snake and called it Nehushtan. [2 Kings 18:4] It is kind of surprising that they would worship the image of a snake since it was the Serpent in the Garden of Eden that got mankind into trouble in the first place and they very well knew the story of it. Even the medical symbol of today is a serpent on a stick.

Even today in many “Christian” areas you will find people worshiping sacred items made by man, crosses, images of “Saints” which are ascribed the ability to provide some supernatural powers or protections to the one who trusts in them. The Christmas Tree is worshiped and songs are sung to it. I have known “Christians” who have images of Buddha which they rub for special powers. They often turn to the Horoscope for daily guidance. People even pray to deceased loved ones who they feel can intercede for them. These are all equal to the Golden calf at Mount Sinai with an altar to Yehowah in front of it.

We need to examine ourselves to see if we have some form of Idolatry in our hearts that God would call an abomination or say, “They have corrupted themselves, they have turned quickly out of the Way which I commanded them.”