

The Return of Jesus:

Israel is Unfaithful

When the people saw how long it was taking Moses to come back down the mountain, they gathered around Aaron. "Come on," they said, "make us some gods who can lead us. We don't know what happened to this fellow Moses, who brought us here from the land of Egypt."

² So Aaron said, "Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives and sons and daughters, and bring them to me."

³ All the people took the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded it into the shape of a calf. When the people saw it, they exclaimed, "O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

⁵ Aaron saw how excited the people were, so he built an altar in front of the calf. Then he announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord!"

⁶ The people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.

Exodus 32:1-6 (NLT)

The Lord told Moses, "Quick! Go down the mountain! Your people whom you brought from the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.

Exodus 32:7 (NLT)

Then the Lord said, "I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so my fierce anger can blaze against them, and I will destroy them. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation."

Exodus 32:9-10 (NLT)

But Moses tried to pacify the Lord his God. "O Lord!" he said. "Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and such a strong hand? ¹² ...Turn away from your fierce anger.

Exodus 32:11-12 (NLT)

So the Lord changed his mind about the terrible disaster he had threatened to bring on his people.

Exodus 32:14 (NLT)

When they came near the camp, Moses saw the calf and the dancing, and he burned with anger. He threw the stone tablets to the ground, smashing them at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ He took the calf they had made and burned it. Then he ground it into powder, threw it into the water, and forced the people to drink it.

Exodus 32:19-20 (NLT)

So I told them, 'Whoever has gold jewelry, take it off.' When they brought it to me, I simply threw it into the fire—and out came this calf!"

Exodus 32:24 (NLT)

So he stood at the entrance to the camp and shouted, "All of you who are on the Lord's side, come here and join me." And all the Levites gathered around him.

²⁷ Moses told them, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Each of you, take your swords and go back and forth from one end of the camp to the other. Kill everyone—even your brothers, friends, and neighbors."²⁸ The Levites obeyed Moses' command, and about 3,000 people died that day.

Exodus 32:26-28 (NLT)

So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, what a terrible sin these people have committed. They have made gods of gold for themselves."³² But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, erase my name from the record you have written!"

Exodus 32:31-32 (NLT)

"You must not make a treaty of any kind with the people living in the land. They lust after their gods, offering sacrifices to them. They will invite you to join them in their sacrificial meals, and you will go with them.

Exodus 34:15 (NLT)

"If you follow my decrees and are careful to obey my commands,⁴ I will send you the seasonal rains. The land will then yield its crops, and the trees of the field will produce their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing season will overlap with the grape harvest, and your grape harvest will overlap with the season of planting grain. You will eat your fill and live securely in your own land.

Leviticus 26:3-5 (NLT)

"In the future, when you have children and grandchildren and have lived in the land a long time, do not corrupt yourselves by making idols of any kind. This is evil in the sight of the Lord your God and will arouse his anger.

²⁶ "Today I call on heaven and earth as witnesses against you. If you break my covenant, you will quickly disappear from the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy. You will live there only a short time; then you will be utterly destroyed. ²⁷ For the Lord will scatter you among the nations, where only a few of you will survive. ²⁸ There, in a foreign land, you will worship idols made from wood and stone—gods that neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell. ²⁹ But from there you will search again for the Lord your God. And if you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him.

Deuteronomy 4:25-29 (NLT)

In Jerusalem, the Lord of Heaven's Armies
will spread a wonderful feast
for all the people of the world.
It will be a delicious banquet
with clear, well-aged wine and choice meat.
⁷ There he will remove the cloud of gloom,
the shadow of death that hangs over the earth.
⁸ He will swallow up death forever!
The Sovereign Lord will wipe away all tears.
He will remove forever all insults and mockery
against his land and people.
The Lord has spoken!
Isaiah 25:6-8 (NLT)

Mark my words—I will not drink wine again until the day I drink it new with you in my Father's Kingdom.”
Matthew 26:29 (NLT)

Application:

! **Sin is** _____.

! **God is** _____.

! **Sin has** _____.