

# Exodus: Redeemed for the Glory of God

## Chapters 32-40: The Golden Calf and the Glory of God Enters Tabernacle

1. Where are we in Redemptive History?
2. What does the word “Exodus” mean?
3. Why is the exodus such an important story to understand?
4. In what ways does this book point to Christ?
5. What has happened in Exodus so far?

### **The Golden Calf: Exodus 32**

*1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." 2 And Aaron said to them, "Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." 3 Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. 4 And he took this from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said, "This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt." 5 Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD. So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry." (Exodus 32:1-6)*

6. What was the purpose of the Exodus? Why is this ironic given what they do in Exodus 32?
7. What commandment are the Israelites breaking in their question in verse 1?
8. Who did the bull represent? What did Aaron call it?
9. What commandment is this violating? Why would God forbid making an image?

*“A true image of God is not to be found in all the world; and hence...His glory is defiled and His truth corrupted by the lie whenever He is set before our eyes in physical form. Therefore, to devise any image of God is itself impious; because by this corruption His majesty is adulterated, and He is figured to be other than He is.” (John Calvin)*

10. What is ironic about what Moses is doing at the time of the golden calf worship?
11. What aspects of God’s character does the tabernacle represent? How does this differ from the golden calf?
12. Though we may not make images today, how can we still break this commandment?
  13. Should we have pictures of Jesus?
  14. What do pictures you’ve seen of Jesus usually look like?
  15. What about in children’s books, movies, and other places that are not worship settings?

16. What do the Israelites do the day after they make the golden calf? What does this teach us about worship done our own way?

## Does God change his mind?: Exodus 32

<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. <sup>8</sup> They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup> And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. <sup>10</sup> Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you." <sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'With evil intent did he bring them out, to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your burning anger and relent from this disaster against your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom you swore by your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your offspring, and they shall inherit it forever.'" <sup>14</sup> And the LORD relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.

18. What does God say in verse 10? And what does he say in verse 14? Does he change his mind?

19. Where do we see some hints of God's mercy in verses 7-10?

20. What does Moses do? (Notice what he does not do as well). To what does he appeal?

21. How is this story representative of our own salvation?

*"Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."* Romans 8:34

*"We have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins."* 1 John 2:1b,2a

22. In what way are we as believers intercessors? Do you take this responsibility seriously?

## The Glory of God: Exodus 40

<sup>33</sup> And he erected the court around the tabernacle and the altar, and set up the screen of the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work. <sup>34</sup> Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>35</sup> And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. <sup>36</sup> Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. <sup>37</sup> But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. <sup>38</sup> For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

23. What was the reason the people were saved from Egypt?

24. Here we are, at the end of Exodus, awaiting the big moment when the glory of God will come down and fill the tabernacle, and the people of God will be able to worship God, in all his glory. But what happens?

25. Why can't anyone enter? What book follows Exodus?

26. So, what has Exodus taught us?

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14).