

# THE TABLES OF STONE BROKEN

Exodus 32:1-35; 34:1-7, 33-35.

## LESSON 35 — Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: “No man can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24).

### BIBLE TEXTS

#### Exodus 32:1-35

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.

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.

3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

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.

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.

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.

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:

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.

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.

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?

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

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.

25 And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

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.

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

## Exodus 34:1-7, 33-35.

1 And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon these tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.

2 And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount.

3 And no man shall come up with thee, neither let any man be seen throughout all the mount; neither let the flocks nor herds feed before that mount.

4 And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone.

5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.

6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.

33 And till Moses had done speaking with them, he put a vail on his face.

34 But when Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he took the vail off, until he came out. And he came out, and spake unto the children of Israel that which he was commanded.

35 And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone: and Moses put the vail upon his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

## NOTES

### The Idol

Because Moses stayed so long up in the mountain, talking with God, the people thought he was not coming down again. Then they wanted an idol. They should have known that an idol could not lead them as Moses had led them and that it was wicked to worship an idol instead of God. They seemed to have forgotten how good God had been to them.

Aaron had told them to bring their earrings. Men and women wore them, and they had given them to be made into the idol. They probably had seen an idol like a calf worshipped in Egypt, and they wanted that kind of idol.

### A Terrible Deed

God knows just what is going on in the earth, and He saw what the people were doing. He told Moses to go down again, for they were doing a terrible thing. He said He would punish them very much.

### Broken Tables

When Moses saw that the people were dancing around the idol, he threw the tables down and they were broken. Then he took the idol and melted it in fire, ground it into powder and made the people drink it in their water. They had done a wicked thing and he had to punish them for turning to an idol and dishonouring God.

### The Prayer of Moses

God said they were a very disobedient people and He would not go with them any longer. But Moses begged Him to have mercy on them and go with them as before. Then God forgave them and said He would go with them. God is very kind and merciful, and forgives when men are sorry for their sins and ask God to forgive them.

### **New Tables of Stone**

God told Moses to make two new tables of stone and bring them up to Him in the mountain, and He would write on them what He had written on the first ones.

### **God's Great Glory and Brightness**

God told Moses that he could not see God's face or he would surely die. He said no one could look at His face and live. He told Moses that He would pass by him but God would put His hand over Moses' face and Moses would see only His back.

### **Moses Obeys God**

Moses did what God told him to do. God passed by Moses and said He was the One Who was kind, merciful, and good. We know He is just the same today. How thankful we should be that we have such a loving God and Father, and such a loving Friend as Jesus!

### **QUESTIONS**

1. What did Aaron make for the people to worship? Exodus 32:4.
2. Did the Lord see it? Exodus 32:7.
3. What did He say to Moses? Exodus 32:7-10.
4. What did Moses do when he saw the calf? Exodus 32:19, 20.
5. Why did Moses cover his face with a veil? Exodus 34:33-35.

MUSIC

# Teach Me, O My Lord Above

**WATCH AND PRAY 48**



m: d: s: d: r: f: m:-

l: s: t: d': f: m: r:-

m: d: s: t: l: d': t:-

d': l: f: m: f.m. r: d:-

**SONG**

# **Teach Me, O My Lord Above**

**Teach me, o my Lord above**

**Great obedience to Thy Word**

**Which teaches that I should love?**

**Him who first gave me His love.**



## PICTURE

