

# **“The Golden Calf-Then and Now”**

## **Exo. 32:1-4**

### Introduction

- I. The Israelites of old serve as examples to the church of Christ today (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:1-11).
- II. Often times, the Israelites made sinful mistakes that cost them dearly.
  - A. One of those mistakes was the fashioning of an golden calf for worship.
  - B. This behavior rightly angered Moses and the LORD (Exo. 32:7-20).
- III. Unfortunately, there are some today who have decided that a “golden calf” is better to them than the LORD.

### Discussion

- I. During their waiting for Moses, the Israelites grew impatient and restless (Exo. 32:1-6).
  - A. Israel had witnessed many miracles and seen the power of God, but they still were not committed (Exo. 20:18-21).
  - B. Today, the church of Christ has ample evidence of God and His blessings, yet some are not content to serve and worship as God has commanded (Heb. 11:1).
    1. We must make sure that we do not become impatient while we wait for Jesus (2 Pet. 3:1-10; Gal. 1:6-10).
    2. We should not seek “golden calves” to serve!
- II. Spiritual leadership is desperately needed.
  - A. Aaron allowed the Israelites to influence him away from faithfulness (Exo. 32:2-3).
    1. This did nothing to help Israel be strong.
    2. On the contrary, it made things worse (Exo. 32:21-25).
  - B. Today, elderships have allowed members of the church to influence them away from faithfulness.
    1. Elders must constantly be alert and aware (Acts 20:28-31).
    2. Elders are to lead the congregation, not let the congregation lead them away (1 Pet. 5:1-4).
- III. The Israelites had an intercessor to plead their case, and the church of Christ does as well.
  - A. God was ready to destroy the Israelites, but thankfully Moses interceded on their behalves (Deut. 9:13-20; Exo. 32:11-14).
  - B. The church of Christ should be grateful that we have an intercessor as well, Jesus Christ (1 John 1:8-10; 2:2; Heb. 4:15; 1 Tim. 2:5).

### Conclusion

- I. The church of Christ should rightfully use the Old Testament to learn from Israel's sins.
- II. We do not need “golden calves”; we need Jesus!