

## FINAL STUDY NOTES - *EXODUS CHAPTERS 30-32*

12/9-10/24

### CLASSROOM LOCATION AND ZOOM – SIGN IN INFORMATION:

Phil Twente [ptwente@gmail.com](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com) cell 714 425 9221 [www.ptwente.com](http://www.ptwente.com) - Audio & notes - previous studies

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE ONLINE (ZOOM) STUDY!

**MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada)**  
**THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY WILL BE MEETING ON ZOOM ONLY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!**

**MEETING ID# - 878 5864 4763 Passcode: 087484**

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**TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM DAYLIGHT SAVING Time (US and Canada).**

- Beginning Tuesday, June 4, 2024, TUES MORNING MTG PLACE:
- 1201 KEY WEST, CORONA DEL MAR (shown as 1201 KW, Corona del Mar, CA 92625) on Global Positioning System (GPS) in automobiles. For driving directions from your starting point, suggest using *WAZE* ([waze.com/live-map](http://waze.com/live-map)) or *MapQuest* ([mapquest.com](http://mapquest.com)),
- AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!

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### OPENING PRAYER

***EXODUS – Chapter 30 – The Altar of Incense – (vs. 1-10); The Ransome Money – (vs. 11-16); The Bronze Laver – (vs. 17-21); The Holy Anointing Oil – (vs. 22-33); The Incense – (vs. 34-38).  
Chapter 31 - Artisans for Building the Tabernacle – (vs. 1-11); The Sabbath Law – (vs. 12-18).  
Chapter 32 – The Gold Calf – (vs. 1-35).***

### REVIEW:

***Chapter 29 - Aaron and His Sons Consecrated; The Daily Offerings. – (Exo 29:44-46) So I will consecrate the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. I will also consecrate both Aaron and his sons to***

*minister to Me as priests. [45] I will dwell among the children of Israel and will be their God. [46] And they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt, that I may dwell among them. I am the LORD their God.*

### **Chapter 30 - The Altar of Incense – A Great Worship Chapter**

- **Incense, frequently used in the Bible, speaks of prayer.** This altar was the place where the priest would offer fragrant incense morning and evening, symbolizing their prayers being lifted up to the LORD.

*Exo 30:1 "You shall make an altar to burn incense on; you shall make it of acacia wood.*

*Exo 30:2 A cubit shall be its length and a cubit its width—it shall be square—and two cubits shall be its height (the tallest furniture). Its horns shall be of one piece with it.*

*Exo 30:3 And you shall overlay its top, its sides all around, and its horns with pure gold; and you shall make for it a molding of gold all around.*

*Exo 30:4 Two gold rings you shall make for it, under the molding on both its sides. You shall place them on its two sides, and they will be holders for the poles with which to bear it.*

*Exo 30:5 You shall make the poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with gold.*

*Exo 30:6 And you shall put it before the veil that is before the ark of the Testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the Testimony, where I will meet with you.*

- It was located in the Holy Place, right near the veil that separated the two compartments. It was as close to the Holy of Holies as it could be, without being inside of the Holy of Holies, which indicates that it is very important.

*Exo 30:7 "Aaron shall burn on it sweet incense every morning; when he tends the lamps, he shall burn incense on it.*

*Exo 30:8 And when Aaron lights the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense on it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.*

- **On this altar sweet incense was to be burned every morning.** When the priest went to take care of the lamps, he was to burn sweet incense and again at twilight, not burning continually. Incense in the Scripture is always a type of prayer. Our prayers, the prayers of the saints ascend to God as sweet incense. They come before God as a pleasant aroma.
- **David would say in (Psa 141:2) Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.** this. In (Rev 5:8) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.
- **How many times have you prayed, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven?"** All of these prayers are being stored as incense; and at that moment, when Jesus takes the scroll, then these prayers as incense will be brought to God; the prayers of the saints through the centuries; "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done."

*Exo 30:9 You shall not offer strange incense on it, or a burnt offering, or a grain offering; nor shall you pour a drink offering on it.*

- **Only a special kind of incense was to be burned on this altar.** You were not to try to make this incense for any other purpose. If you did, you would be cut off.

*Exo 30:10 And Aaron shall make atonement upon its horns once a year (on the Day of Atonement) with the blood of the sin offering of atonement; once a year he shall make atonement upon it throughout your generations. It is most holy to the LORD."*

### **The Census Tax - The Ransomed May Worship**

*Exo 30:11 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:*

*Exo 30:12 "When you take the census of the children of Israel for their number, then every man shall give a ransom (payment regarding one's redemption, awakening a sense of unworthiness, not voluntary, but required, an equal amount for all) for himself to the LORD, when you number them, that there may be no plague among them when you number them.*

- **At times, the LORD would require a census.** His method was to have every man above the age of twenty, give half a shekel as ransom money, in remembrance of their deliverance out of Egypt. Rich

or poor, were to give the same amount. The half shekel was not really very much, but it was called the money of ransom, whereby you ransomed yourself.

- **This is also the way they took the census.** They were not really to number the people, because God said that the descendants of Abraham would be innumerable as the stars of the heaven. David later got into trouble because he numbered the people not as a ransom to God for delivering them out of Egypt, but to determine the size and strength of his army.
- **What they were to do is that when every man came in,** paid his temple tax, which was to maintain the Tabernacle, and later the temple, they would count the shekels. 'Don't count the men, just count the shekels,' and by that they knew how many men above twenty were there. So, it was also a way of

***Exo 30:13 This is what everyone among those who are numbered shall give: half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (a shekel is twenty gerahs). The half-shekel shall be an offering to the LORD.***

***Exo 30:14 Everyone included among those who are numbered, from twenty years old and above, shall give an offering to the LORD.***

***Exo 30:15 The rich shall not give more and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when you give an offering to the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves.***

- **The fact that everyone had to give the same amount was indicative that every man is equal in the sight of God.** God has no special favors for the rich, nor the poor. Every man stands before God on an equal plane. God looks at every man, and his redemption, alike. (*Act 10:34*) Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality."
- **We think that God must value men like Billy Graham or the pope, above all** of the rest of us because, man, look what he has done! Surely God values them more than He values me. "Who am I," you know? But God values us all the same. Thus, they all gave the same.

***Exo 30:16 And you shall take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shall appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of meeting, that it may be a memorial for the children of Israel before the LORD, to make atonement for yourselves."***

#### **The Bronze Laver - The Cleansed May Worship**

***Exo 30:17 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:***

***Exo 30:18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it,***

***Exo 30:19 for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.***

***Exo 30:20 When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die.***

- **No priest could just walk into the tabernacle without washing their hands and feet.** If they did they would die! It was a serious offense. Washing was required whenever they came near the altar.
- **Later, in (Lev 10:1-2)** Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. [2] So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.
- **Here again, the importance of being cleansed in approaching God,** you just do not go running in. You will be consumed. God is a holy God, and we can only approach Him through Jesus Christ.

***Exo 30:21 So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations."***

- **So, this washing was required in the Old Testament.** As New Testament priests we are washed through the water of the word, which washes and cleanses us. (*Psa 119:9*) How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. For husbands, (*Eph 5:26*) that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word. (*Joh 15:3*) You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.
- **We are also cleansed by the confession of our sin.** (*1Jn 1:9*) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- **It is interesting there are no measurements of the bronze laver,** symbolizing the fact that the cleansing power of the word of God is limitless. It knows no measure. It can cleanse us of anything we pick up in this world.

- Also it speaks to us of the fact that God's forgiveness of his children, it knows no limit! (*Heb 4:16*) *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

**The Anointing Oil and Incense – The Anointed May Worship - Both to be a sweet aroma**

*Exo 30:22 Moreover the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:*

*Exo 30:23 "Also take for yourself quality spices—five hundred shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much sweet-smelling cinnamon (two hundred and fifty shekels), two hundred and fifty shekels of sweet-smelling cane,*

*Exo 30:24 five hundred shekels of cassia, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and a hin of olive oil.*

*Exo 30:25 And you shall make from these a holy anointing oil, an ointment compounded according to the art of the perfumer. It shall be a holy anointing oil.*

*Exo 30:26 With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony;*

*Exo 30:27 the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense;*

*Exo 30:28 the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base.*

*Exo 30:29 You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy.*

*Exo 30:30 And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests.*

*Exo 30:31 "And you shall speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations.*

*Exo 30:32 It shall not be poured on man's flesh (not to enhance our flesh, but to glorify Himself); nor shall you make any other like it, according to its composition. It is holy, and it shall be holy to you.*

*Exo 30:33 Whoever compounds any like it, or whoever puts any of it on an outsider, shall be cut off from his people.' "*

- Now, the formulation of the anointing oil is given. This is an aromatic kind of an oil, which gives the compounding of this special anointing oil. They were not to duplicate it for any other purpose. If any man would try to duplicate for any other purpose, he was to be cut off.

*Exo 30:34 And the LORD said to Moses: "Take sweet spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, and pure frankincense with these sweet spices; there shall be equal amounts of each.*

*Exo 30:35 You shall make of these an incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer, salted, pure, and holy.*

*Exo 30:36 And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put some of it before the Testimony in the tabernacle of meeting where I will meet with you. It shall be most holy to you.*

*Exo 30:37 But as for the incense which you shall make, you shall not make any for yourselves, according to its composition. It shall be to you holy for the LORD.*

*Exo 30:38 Whoever makes any like it, to smell it, he shall be cut off from his people."*

- An incense, a compound according to the art of the perfumer. The same was true of the special formulation of the incense, the frankincense, and the combining of the other fragrant oils with it. The making of the incense was to be, again, something that was used exclusively for the tabernacle, and not to be compounded or formulated for any other purpose. The LORD didn't want this sacred smell, symbolizing the sweetness of prayer, to be used for human attraction or adornment.
- Both the Holy Anointing Oil and the Incense were to be sweet smelling. Both were to leave a sweet smelling aroma when being used. The Holy Spirit bringing a fragrance into our lives; The incense, associated with prayer, leaving a pleasing after smell of prayer. (*2Co 2:14-16a*) *Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. [15] For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing [16a]...of death.*
- **How fragrant is my life? Is there evidence of spiritual fragrance? Of a pleasing after smell of prayer?**

## Chapter 31 – The Call of the Spirit-filled Craftsmen

- Now, having given the instructions regarding the materials, dimensions and necessary information on building the Tabernacle, the LORD then anointed certain men with His Spirit, and gave to them artful ability at craftsmanship. Now, these men were filled with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.

### *Oholiab and Bezalel*

*Exo 31:1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying:*

*Exo 31:2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel (shadow of God) the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.*

- Going back, he was the son of Perez, who was the son of Tamar, from Judah.

*Exo 31:3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,*

- God just gave this fellow special skills in craftsmanship; the ability to work with his hands, and to figure things out. There are people who are gifted in this area, artisans, those that just have that natural capacity in furniture making, and in other artistic crafts. So, God gave to them this gift.

*Exo 31:4 to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze,*

*Exo 31:5 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.*

*Exo 31:6 "And I, indeed I, have appointed with him Aholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan; and I have put wisdom in the hearts of all the gifted artisans, that they may make all that I have commanded you:*

- The LORD says, I have called, I have filled, I have appointed! When He calls somebody to do something, He then enables them to do that. That is always the case. If I sit here tonight, knowing that God is calling me to do something that I have never done that before. How in the world am I going to do that? Be assured He always gives us the ability to do it. You will always be slightly over your head to keep you humble, causing you to never forget that the LORD is doing this. That without Him, there'd be nothing to show for it. He gets all of the glory! He will come through, enabling me to do that which He has called!
- The tabernacle needs to be built. God anoints men with His Holy Spirit to do the job.

*Exo 31:7 the tabernacle of meeting, the ark of the Testimony and the mercy seat that is on it, and all the furniture of the tabernacle—*

*Exo 31:8 the table and its utensils, the pure gold lampstand with all its utensils, the altar of incense,*

*Exo 31:9 the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base—*

*Exo 31:10 the garments of ministry, the holy garments for Aaron the priest and the garments of his sons, to minister as priests,*

*Exo 31:11 and the anointing oil and sweet incense for the holy place. According to all that I have commanded you they shall do."*

- We can get so busy in the work of God that it becomes actually a detriment to our fellowship with God. Sometimes we get so busy serving God. That we forget to fellowship with God and God is always more interested in the servant than the service. It is something I always have to guard my heart against.

### *The Sabbath Becomes a Sign*

- Why does God bring the Sabbath up once again and in this context? He is reminding Moses. I want you to build this Tabernacle, its furnishings and priestly garments and things. All of these things are important, but they are not to crowd out the personal relationship side of things in doing it. God is always more interested in the servant than the service. Because as important as all of this preparing a Tabernacle is to Me, it is not remotely as important as your personal relationship with Me is! That is a heavenly Father speaking to His children.
- It is a good reminder for us in our ministries **not to sacrifice our daily time with the LORD, the personal relationship side of our life with Him**, saying, I have to get to this ministry that God has called me to do. It is very, very important, so I am going to let my devotional life with God slide for the time needed to complete it. The LORD is saying, "It is not worth that to Me, if it comes out of our relationship, then the ministry will not mean what I want it to mean to Me!"

*Exo 31:12 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,*

*Exo 31:13 "Speak also to the children of Israel, saying: 'Surely My Sabbaths you shall keep, for it is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies (sets apart) you.*

- **Now, God gave to Abraham the covenant of circumcision.** To Moses He made another covenant, whereby they might be acclaimed always as the people of God; and this is the Sabbath day for their worship, for their holy day. *It is a sign between Me and you, the children of Israel throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies (sets apart) you.*

*Exo 31:14 You shall keep the Sabbath, therefore, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.*

- **We think of that as a pretty severe punishment for a person** who would violate the Sabbath. *Whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people.* That is, put to death.

*Exo 31:15 Work shall be done for six days (19x in Bible, 11x about Creation's six days and rest on seventh day), but the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.*

- **We think of that as extremely severe; and the Jews did develop,** and even to the present day among the orthodox, have developed a very strict adherence to the Sabbath day.

*Exo 31:16 Therefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.*

*Exo 31:17 It is a sign (one of two specific signs, the Sabbath and circumcision) between Me and the children of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth (undeniable that the six creation "days" were literal days. The LORD even wrote it down with His own finger on a table of stone), and on the seventh day He rested and was refreshed.*

- **It is God's covenant, also a sign** between Him and the nation of Israel. It is not something that was placed upon the Gentile believers, or upon the church. Jesus Christ is our High Priest! Our rest!

*Exo 31:18 And when He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*

- **The Ark of the Covenant later contained the two tablets.** Not these two tablets, these were broken by Moses in the next chapter. Then God made two more stones. One of the greatest archeological discoveries that might be made would be the discovery of the Ark of the with the two tables of stone upon which God Himself wrote the Ten Commandments. That would be awesome to see.

### **The Golden Calf**

*Exo 32:1 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 (dumbest thing that anyone could say) 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."*

- **That Moses delayed.** **Moses did not delay!** He was not up on the mountain 40 days just to get the two tables of stone. He was up there 40 days receiving the description of the Tabernacle, all of the details, the order of worship, all of these things! *When He had made an end of speaking with him on Mount Sinai, He gave Moses two tablets of the Testimony., tablets of stone, written with the finger of God.*
- **Notice the lack of patience here. We need to be careful!** When God is being patient in a situation. We must not become impatient ourselves or we are going to create a terrible mess! Abraham, Sarah – Hagar! How hard it is to wait for God's timing when things are unraveling?
- **How often does my Impatience get me into trouble? How patient am I in situations where God is being patient and I need to wait?**

*Exo 32:2 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."*

*Exo 32:3 So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron.*

- We see a classic example of people pleasing. Aaron was fearing man more than fearing God, being unwilling to stand up against man! (*Gal 1:10*) *For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.*
- **How inclined am I to please man or to always please God?**

*Exo 32:4 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" (foolishness of idolatry, the calf statue had not even existed the day prior, yet they worshipped it as the god that brought them out of Egypt)!"*

*Exo 32:5 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."*

- **People like something visible that they can worship.** Because of not wanting to walk in faith, they want a representation of some sort. Thus, man is always seeking to make some kind of a representation of their god, that they might worship that representation; a statue, an image, an idol; because within us, we have this desire to worship, but there also seems to be that desire to see the object of worship.
- **Now, God had strictly forbidden this.** In the Ten Commandments, God said, "You're not to make any graven image of any likeness of things in heaven and earth, to bow down to them or worship them." You are not to try to make a representation of God.
- **When a man makes an idol, it first declares that that man has lost the consciousness of the presence** of God in his life. He seeks something that would remind him of God's presence. If you really live with the consciousness of God's presence, you do not need some kind of a visible representation. That desire for visible representation testifies that you have lost your consciousness of God's presence in your life.
- **The second thing it indicates is that inwardly, you are desiring somehow to regain that which you have lost.** Your desire is for God, and your desire is to have some kind of a reminder, or representation that will bring to you the awareness of God's presence, or God's work.

*Exo 32:6 Then they rose early on the next day, offered burnt offerings (total commitment to God?), and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.*

- **The burnt offerings were consecration offerings. The peace offerings were fellowship offerings.** With the peace offering, you roasted part of it, and you ate it, and the priest ate part of it. Part was for God, part was for you; part was burned as a sacrifice to God, and the rest you ate; and as you sat down to eat, it was a time of fellowshiping with God, but then they rose up to play.

*Exo 32:7 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves.*

*Exo 32:8 They have turned aside quickly (people have taken charge completely) out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it (just insane, all violation of the first three commandments), and sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' "*

*Exo 32:9 And the LORD said to Moses (who was up on Mt. Sinai), "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked (disobedient) people!*

- **It is a stiff-necked people. Like a horse,** where you try and move his head to turn him to the right or left, he just stiffens his neck and goes where he wants. So, *this people is indeed stiff-necked!*

*Exo 32:10 Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."*

- Consider this great test for Moses! *I will make of you a great nation!*

*Exo 32:11 Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "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?*

- **Let Me alone....I may consume them....will make of you a great nation.** Moses listens to that and he immediately begins to intercede. It is one of the most beautiful intercessions in all the Bible. As he begins to talk to God about these people and he is going to plead with the LORD here.
- **Now, there are some difficulties with our text.** The difficulties lie in what we view to be an apparent angry God being conciliated by Moses. In a sense, it looks like God is the hot head, and Moses is the cool head. God is wanting to wipe them out, and Moses is interceding for them; and that through

Moses perseverance, God's mind was changed, and God then did not wipe them out as the result of Moses' intercession.

- **Our problems lie in language.** God is infinite, and yet, we must describe God in human, finite terminology; words that we know, words that we understand. We have to explain the actions of God with words that we understand. So, we read that God relented, and did not slay them. We say, "Well, God changed His mind. Moses was successful in his intercession. Changed the mind of God." Yet we read that God is not a man that He should lie, nor the son of man that He should repent, or change. Hath He not spoken, and shall He not do it? God said, "Behold, I am God. I change not."
- **As we get into this interchange with Moses and God, and we see Moses interceding** for the people, it is important that we remember where the inspiration came from that inspired Moses to pray for the people. **Who was it that inspired Moses to pray?** Where does true prayer begin? **True prayer begins with God,** the heart of God. Moses was inspired by God to pray for these people.
- **But, as we read it, it would appear, and that is because we have to use human language,** it would appear that God had changed, that Moses was successful, that Moses had used the logic and reasoning, and had argued God out of what God was wanting to do. No, that really is not the case, because Moses was inspired by God for his prayers.

*Exo 32:12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.*

- You know, if you wipe them out here, then the Egyptians are going to say, "Man, their God is really a mean One. He just took them out there so that He can wipe them out in the wilderness."

*Exo 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' "*

*Exo 32:14 So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.*

- So, Moses reminds God of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and to Jacob. It would appear that Moses, using this logic and all, was able to intervene, change God's mind; but the inspiration came from God Himself.

*Exo 32:15 And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written.*

- God had placed the law upon these two tables of stones.

*Exo 32:16 Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets.*

*Exo 32:17 And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a noise of war in the camp."*

- Evidently, Joshua was waiting halfway up in the mountain, waiting as Moses went on to the top and talked with God.
- So, Joshua heard the noise of the people. Now, Joshua had not heard what God told Moses concerning what was going on. He heard the shout, and said to Moses,

*Exo 32:18 But he said: "It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear."*

*Exo 32:19 So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses' anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.*

- **Thou shalt have no other gods beside Me.** Thou shalt not make any graven image of any likeness of things in heaven and earth to bow down and worship. They were guilty of violating the first two basic commands. The law was broken. And so, Moses threw the tables of stone down in his anger, and they were broken. Symbolic of the actions of the people.

*Exo 32:20 Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it.*

*Exo 32:21 And Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?"*



*Exo 32:22 So Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil.*

*Exo 32:23 For they said to me, 'Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.'*

*Exo 32:24 And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.' So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out."*

- Pretty lame, Aaron. Boy, isn't it amazing how we can rationalize and explain ourselves where we sound so innocent? "You know, I just threw the gold in the fire, and this thing came out, man." Yet, we read where he had fashioned it with an engraving tool.

*Exo 32:25 Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (naked; for Aaron had not restrained them to their shame among their enemies),*

- When we forsake the LORD, we too become naked, spiritually, defenseless to the other side of the evil ones.
- Their dancing became quite sensuous, as was the case in most of the ancient culture. The dances were quite often fertility type dances, and they ended in a big sexual orgy. So, Moses saw this whole scene.

*Exo 32:26 then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the LORD's side—come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.*

*Exo 32:27 And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.' "*

*Exo 32:28 So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day.*

- The men of Levi were used as the executioners to go in and to destroy those who were the ring leaders in this movement away from the LORD. Very severe punishment and penalty.

*Exo 32:29 Then Moses said, "Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother."*

*Exo 32:30 Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."*

*Exo 32:31 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!*

*Exo 32:32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."*

- Yet, now, if you will forgive their sin---; Notice the dash, which indicates that there was a pause. There was a hesitation. Waiting for God to respond, waiting for God to answer, and when there was no answer forthcoming from God. Then Moses added, but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.
- I do not think that we, on our level of dedication or commitment can really understand this prayer of Moses; how he could request God to blot his name out of The Book Of Life, if God were unwilling to forgive the people. Surely, Moses had the rare heart of a leader.
- The Apostle Paul also made a statement to that in (Rom 9:3;10:1) *For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, [10:1] Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.*
- How much of a burden do we have for the lost. How much of a burden do you have for the lost around you? God help us; we hardly have enough burden to even tell them of Jesus Christ, much less to be so concerned that we say, "God, I wish that I myself could be accursed if they could only be saved."
- **How would I have responded if I were in Moses' place, hearing from the LORD, (Exo 32:8,10)** *They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it, and sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!' [10] Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation.)* Would I

have interceded at all, like Moses did? **How much do I care about the lost? Oh LORD please give me a more prayerful, caring and loving heart for the lost!**

- No, it cannot be. God said, "Whoever sins, I will hold him responsible. (Eze 18:20) *The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.*
- There is only One who bore the responsibility for sin that is really valid, and that's Jesus Christ, and He bore the responsibility for your and my sin. He died in our place, and that is valid. He tasted of death for us. Therein is, of course, love! God's love manifested!

**Exo 32:33** *And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.*

- This was also an intimation of mercy to the people, that they should not all be destroyed in a body, but only those that had a hand in the sin.

**Exo 32:34** *Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."*

**Exo 32:35** *So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.*

- Go ahead, take them. I will let My angel go before you. Lead them into the land. But when the day comes for punishment, I will take care of the guilty ones.

## SUMMARY

- **How fragrant is my life? Is there evidence of spiritual fragrance? Of a pleasing after smell of prayer?** (Exo 30:38) *The Anointing Oil and Incense – Both to be a sweet aroma*
- **How often does my impatience get me into trouble? How patient am I in situations where God is being patient and I need to wait?** (Exo 32:1) *The Golden Calf*
- **How inclined am I to please man or to always please God?** (Exo 32:3)
- **How would I have responded if I were in Moses' place, hearing from the LORD,** (Exo 32:8-10; 32:32) *Would I have interceded at all, like Moses did? How much do I care about the lost?*
- **Oh LORD please give me a more prayerful, caring and loving heart for the lost!**

## CLOSING SONG

**MORE LOVE TO THEE** - Elizabeth P. Prentiss, William H. Doane, 1832-1915 (2:38/2:41)

1. More love to thee, O Christ, more love to thee! Hear thou the prayer I make on bended knee.  
This is my earnest plea: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!
2. Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; now thee alone I seek, give what is best.  
This all my prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!
3. Then shall my latest breath whisper thy praise; this be the parting cry my heart shall raise;  
this still its prayer shall be: More love, O Christ, to thee; more love to thee, more love to thee!

## CLOSING PRAYER

**NEXT WEEK: Read and study Exodus Chapters 33-35!**