

## **And There Came Out This Calf**

Exodus 31:1 – 32:25

~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God has been hanging around the pre-construction meeting between God and Moses regarding the tabernacle for several days; and in our last report we left off with sweet perfume from God filling the air with beautiful fragrances. I wish we could just stop and stay there forevermore – but we can't! It would seem we are departing from the tabernacle instructions in this report but, actually, we aren't. We have an interval here in the giving of the law. Moses spent a great deal of time up there gathering all of this information, as you can see. The children of Israel couldn't wait on Moses so there had to be a break to go take care of some housekeeping responsibilities. Before we get to that, though, we are first introduced to the man, Bezaleel, who will make all of the intricate items that go into the tabernacle.

The Spirit of God moved upon Bezaleel and his helpers. These men were given the talent and the motivation to do this particular work. I believe that Bezaleel was a lapidary and a smith prior to this calling from God. To do this thing for the Lord, he was given a special talent - and that means special training to do the work. Whatever you are capable of doing naturally is what you should do for God unless the Lord Personally makes it clear for you to do otherwise. There are many people who are technically equipped to do what is needed in the Lord's work, for example; and, on the other hand, there are those who want to speak but they are not capable of speaking correctly for Christ. Many laymen are simply determined to be in the wrong service, it seems. They are usually not equipped for, nor do they have a semblance of that gift; and yet they neglect other gifts for which they are suited, and they ultimately fail for God completely. There are many things that need to be done around the church that aren't getting done; and there are many things that are overdone, also. We need to be faithful with the gifts we have been given and to use them God's way so that He can maintain the balance in our church lives.

Bezaleel could have demanded a garment equal to the high priest's for doing this work; but God would have found someone else - because that's not how God does business. In one sense, Bezaleel's work was even more important than that of Aarons. His contribution was essential for service in the tabernacle. I am absolutely sure God will give you a gift that will draw on all of your life's experience, talent, education and training. God wants you to dedicate your talent set to the service of the Lord - and then develop those talents and master them. Naturally, we won't all be doing the same thing. There are literally hundreds of gifts that are needed, and that God has given for the service of worshiping Him and teaching the sound doctrine of the apostles today. It is the responsibility of the individual to determine what their gift for Christ is. Whatever talent you have, God has given it to you so you can display it for His glory!

Alright then, coincidentally - or not - at verse twelve, we have the Sabbath day brought up; a subject that most people simply pass over at this stage of their commentary. I think the Sabbath day was observed universally ever since creation, as we know it, began. Man came from God as his Creator and man had the creation account that was known by all mankind, I am absolutely sure of it. Through the millennia it has been perverted and changed, of course. When we get to the Mosaic Law, we discover that God made the Sabbath day rest one of the commandments for the children of Israel. Here, we find out it WAS just for the children of Israel. The Sabbath now becomes a specific sign between the Lord God and the children of Israel.

The Sabbath is for no one else; and it has NO place in the church at all! The Sabbath was never changed, though; but the physical allotment of time known as the Sabbath day was done away with as far as we are concerned! Saturday is the day Jesus was dead, friends – I don't observe a dead Jesus! Christ came back from the dead on the first day of the week, Sunday; and the church has met since day one on that day! The church was BORN on the first day of the week; and the day of Pentecost was the day AFTER the Sabbath! Pentecost means fifty. The very name itself places it on a Sunday – not Saturday. The Sabbath was given to the children of Israel specifically, not you! If you say you keep the Sabbath do you keep it all the time? When you don't keep it are you cut off from amongst your people and put to

death; because that's part of the deal? Have you ever cleaned up your house or car on Sunday? The church is a new creation, and that new creation has a new day; that new day is the first day of the week....

### **XXXI**

***1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,***

***2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah:***

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

***4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass,***

***5 And in cutting of stones, to set them, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship.***

***6 And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;***

***7 The tabernacle of the congregation, and the ark of the testimony, and the mercy seat that is thereupon, and all the furniture of the tabernacle,***

***8 And the table and his furniture, and the pure candlestick with all his furniture, and the altar of incense,***

***9 And the altar of burnt offering with all his furniture, and the laver and his foot,***

***10 And the cloths of service, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, to minister in the priest's office,***

***11 And the anointing oil, and sweet incense for the holy place: according to all that I have commanded thee shall they do.***

**12 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,**

**13 Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you.**

**14 Ye shall keep the Sabbath therefore; for it is holy unto you: every one that defileth it shall surely be put to death: for whosoever doeth any work therein, that soul shall be cut off from among his people.**

**15 Six days may work be done; but in the seventh is the Sabbath of rest, holy to the LORD: whosoever doeth any work in the Sabbath day, he shall surely be put to death.**

**16 Wherefore the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, to observe the Sabbath throughout their generations, for a perpetual covenant.**

**17 It is a sign between me and the children of Israel for ever: for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested, and was refreshed.**

**18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**

## **XXXII**

~ Here we have a tragedy, to be sure; but we also find in it one of the greatest lessons on prayer that we have in the entire Bible! Moses was a great man of prayer, by the way. Well, Moses was called up into the mount and the children of Israel saw that. It didn't take very long before they started thinking Moses had been killed or something and he wasn't coming back. So, they decide they are going to make an idol to worship and to lead them through the wilderness. The children of Israel agreed to do everything God wanted them to do concerning the law when they hadn't even heard the law; now, before they can actually receive the law, they have already

broken it! They're not keeping ANY of the commandments at this time. They had NO chance of keeping this law from before day one. They broke the law and lapsed almost immediately.

I must say I am surprised that Aaron didn't attempt to prevent this calf making from happening; but he didn't! Aaron didn't resist their liberalism in one single sentence. He will later act like he had no idea where the calf came from, which is laughable. I think Aaron thought Moses just might buy the whole "...suddenly from the fire...." theory. Well, Moses didn't buy it for one minute. The earrings that they broke off to make this idol were a sign of idolatry in and of itself. The earrings were a sign that the gods in Egypt had once been served and worshipped. Can you believe how fast these people have lapsed into apostasy? It would be amazing to me, but I see the church in an apostasy today that seemed unthinkable just twenty years ago....

***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 in gross immorality.***

***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:***

~ So, we see Moses up on the mount getting the law from God that the children of Israel have previously agreed to keep all of - but are now flagrantly breaking - causing the Lord to have to interrupt Himself and tell Moses to go straighten out this golden calf idol worshiping corruption mess. These people aren't great and superior and lovely people whom God couldn't live without, friends – they were NONE of those things. These are a corrupt and stiff-necked people that God knew all about before He heard them cry out to Him back in Egypt. God knew Jacob personally, friends, just like He knows each and every one of us today....

***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.***

~ God says here that He will make Moses as Abraham if Moses wants Him to; and this must have been a real temptation for Moses to think about. God could have wiped Israel out and made Moses the father of a great nation and He still would have made good on the covenant He made with Abraham! In my estimation, this could have gone either way, friends. Think about that today! The record is that Moses prayed one of the greatest prayers in Scripture....

***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?***

~ Remember, God had told Moses to get down to His people - to the people that He brought out of Egypt. Well, Moses really backtalks the Lord sans the pious camp or piffle that we hear today, so often in what people pretend to pass off as prayer. There is so much hypocrisy in most prayer today that it's no wonder prayer meetings are absolutely dead! For us to speak honestly and frankly with God would make one of the most exciting church meetings in decades! God tells Moses that HIS people had sinned – Moses' people had sinned! Moses replies, "... Lord, I think You have made a mistake." Moses simply could not recall bringing anyone out of Egypt and Moses was unaware of any "people" that Moses had! Can you imagine anyone talking to God that way? Moses says, "...not my people – they're Your people, God!" Moses tells God that God brought them out - so God can deal with them. And Moses isn't done yet, either....

***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.***

~ Moses says to God, "these are Your people – You brought them out of Egypt. If You don't deliver them then the Egyptians will say You could bring them out, but You cannot deliver them. So, this is Your credibility and Your problem, God – not mine!" Well, Moses Godly wisdom moved the arm of God, friends – it says it right here. Moses interceded on behalf of an entire nation. If we were just a little bit more honest and frank in our prayers then we would see a whole lot more visible results and clear answers. So, Moses goes down to the people but he's not going to have a party and congratulate them for a job well done....

***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):***

~ So, Israel was having a high old time worshipping that calf, singing and living in their sins. Well, Moses makes them drink concrete chalk water that was ten times bitterer than the waters at Marah ever were, you may be assured. As they're drinking that cup I have to laugh at Aaron's excuse of an answer for these people. Aaron is trying to sell the lie of a story that he poured the gold into the fire and out walked this calf! I love it! Moses is laughing now, too, and we can just laugh right on into our next report. The problem is: this isn't funny. This calf worship has brought them to nudism which means pornography and Israel is at the very bottom of the garbage bin right now in their history at the time in which we are studying. Moses may be laughing; but he's not happy - and they're sure not laughing at the same things ~

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