

# Exodus – Lesson 23

## The Golden Calf Incident

### Read Exodus 31:12-32:35

1. (a) List some reasons from Exodus 31:12-18 that the people were to keep the Sabbath day.  
  
(b) Why do *you* think that God repeats this command at this point in his instructions to Moses?
  
2. (a) From Exodus 32:1, list the reasons the people give for their demand of Aaron.  
  
(b) What does Exodus 32:4 imply about the *purpose* of the golden calf? How does this fit with the *history* of the people of Israel in Egypt?  
  
(c) Why does Aaron *capitulate* to the people? How does Exodus 32:5 show his *compromise*?  
  
(d) What is *syncretism*? How does Aaron demonstrate a *form* of syncretism? What are some forms of syncretism in the church *today*?
  
3. (a) What does God say in Exodus 32:7 that seems *unusual*? Why does God say it?  
  
(b) From Exodus 32:11-13, list the reasons that Moses gives to God *why* he should not destroy the Israelites. Which of these do *you* think is the most compelling and why?  
  
(c) What does it mean in Exodus 32:14 that the Lord “*relented*” from doing what he said he would? How does this relate to the *immutability* of God?
  
4. (a) How does Moses *react* to the golden calf (see Exodus 32:19f)? Why does he react so *violently*?  
  
(b) How does Aaron “*excuse*” himself from guilt (see Exodus 32:21-24)? *Why* does he do this?  
  
(c) How is Moses’ plea before God in Exodus 32:31-32 a *foreshadowing* of the work of Christ (see also Philemon 18-19)?