

Sermon Notes

Series: Exploring Exodus: Redemption from the Depths to Glory

Text: Exodus 32:5-10

Title: An Intensive Inquiry into Idolatry, Pt. 3

2 Observations

I. THE CELEBRATION THAT IS CORRUPT

5-6

Syncretism =

A. THEIR FALSE PERCEPTION

5

Saw what? The golden calf as well as the enthusiasm and excitement of the people. "Tomorrow.. feast to the Lord." = seeking to baptize willful wickedness in the Lord's Name, as we say, in Jesus' Name,

Aaron = fearful of and faithful to the *vox populi*. No godly leadership, No recollection of an implementing God's Word, salvation. A new form, style of worship. A new kind of church. God present in name only but the people are in charge. Gross compromises result when we resort to the popular vs the good, the right, the Word of God. Recall Mt 17:5; Acts 3:22; Jn 1:1, 14; Heb 1:1-3; etc.

B. THEIR FERVENT PARTICIPATION

6

Their Frenzied Confusion– determined, devoted, delirious! The very sacrifices Yahweh required at his altar, Ex 20:24. Note 24B.

Their Filthy Contamination– very lively, sincere. Play=fundamentally laugh, laughter as Isaac, but also teasing, jesting, Gen 19:14; make mockery, entertain, Jdg 16:25; sexual overtones, Gen 26:8; 39:14-17. Likely all 3 with latter most emphasized. Significance of Apis. Anticipates Rom 1:18-32– pattern, pathway from idolatry to sexual immorality. 1 Cor 10:6-13.

Again, several contrasts: on the mount and below [between heaven and earth]; making of the tabernacle and the idol; gathering the material for the tabernacle and for the golden calf; approach to the tabernacle and to the idol.

II. THE CONTEMPLATION THAT IS CORRECT

7-8

Back to the mountaintop where God communicates with Moses

A. REGARDING THEIR CONDUCT

7-8b

The Distancing from the People- "your people...": contrast Ex 3:7, 10; 5:1; 7:4, 16, 25; 8:20-23; etc., and 20:2, etc.

The Destruction of the People– idolatry ruins, destroys the foundation in essence of God's covenant with his people

The Desertion of the People– turned aside = willful rebellion against, leaving the way of, Jdg 2:17; 16:20; Mal 3:7. Backslide from right course of religion, apostatize, Dt 9:12. Recall Gal 1:6. The Devotion of the People– devout dedication to their idol.

B. REGARDING THEIR CONFESSION

8C

".. your gods ..who brought you .." The deception of the people! Their devout worship based on a lie. A disturbing, confession of fake.

III. THE CONDEMNATION THAT IS CONSUMING

9-10

A. HIS INFALLIBLE ASSESSMENT

9

His Continued Distancing– another contrast ... between God's seeing and Aaron's seeing, v. 5. Similar tone between this people and this Moses, v. 1. Powerful divine irony, rebuke.

His Critical Definition– stiffnecked = from 2 words meaning severely difficult and neck. An agricultural word; animals refusing, rejecting masters' yoke and resisting to turn in required direction. Characterizes Israel's attitudes, actions, Ex 33:3, 5; 34:9; Dt 9:6, 13; 10:16; etc. Contrast with Jesus' yoke! Mt 11:28-30.

B. HIS INCONTESTABLE JUDGMENT

10

His Clear Intention– Israel's deliberate disobedience of God's commandments, especially the 1st 2, requires his righteous judgment upon them. See Ps 51:4.

His Covenant Insistence– similar words to Abraham in Gen 12:2; 8:18. Moses to be a new patriarch, after the order of Abraham, with a new people. The Abrahamic covenant is fulfilled in Rom 4:13-17; Gal 3:16, 29, not by man's works but by faith alone in the perfect law-keeping of Christ and in his substitutionary sacrifice on the cross for those who trust him alone for salvation.