



# Exodus

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32:1-35



# The Gold Calf

- **32** When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; 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.” <sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.”
- [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Ex 32:1–5.

# God Is Paying Attention

- <sup>6</sup> They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.
- <sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted **perversely**; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”

- [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Ex 32:6–10.

# Strong's # H6711

- Revel.  $\text{רָחַץ}$  (Tsacheq)
  - **caress**, fondle, engage in foreplay, i.e., indulge in physical sexual play (Ge 26:8; Ex 32:6+), note: in context of an orgy, then sexual immorality
- James Swanson, [Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains : Hebrew \(Old Testament\)](#) (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997).

# Exodus 32:9-14

- <sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”
- <sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ”  
<sup>14</sup> And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.
- [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Ex 32:9–14.

# Accountability?

- <sup>21</sup> Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?” <sup>22</sup> And Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are bent on evil. <sup>23</sup> They said to me, ‘Make us gods, who shall go before us; 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.’ <sup>24</sup> So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold, take it off’; so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!”
- [The Holy Bible: New Revised Standard Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989), Ex 32:21–24.

# Who's On The Lord's Side?

- <sup>25</sup> When Moses saw that the people were running wild (for Aaron had let them run wild, to the derision of their enemies), <sup>26</sup> then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, **“Who is on the Lord’s side? Come to me!”** And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. <sup>27</sup> He said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, ‘Put your sword on your side, each of you! Go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill your brother, your friend, and your neighbor.’ ” <sup>28</sup> The sons of Levi did as Moses commanded, and about three thousand of the people fell on that day. <sup>29</sup> Moses said, “Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of a son or a brother, and so have brought a blessing on yourselves this day.”