

Exodus 32:1-14 - Whom or What Is Your god?

God powerfully delivered the Israelites from Egyptian slavery utilizing ten crushing plagues and drowning their powerful army. Soon after Israel's dramatic rescue, the Lord called Moses up on a mountain so that he, the Israelite leader could receive the two tablets of stone on which God inscribed the Ten Commands, the most famous religious manual other than the Bible itself.

Moses left his brother Aaron in charge. Moses stayed on the mountain with the Lord for some time receiving vital instructions and advice. Down below, the "natives became restless," and noisy. The majority thought Moses was taking too long; they also wanted a god they could see. Aaron meekly, weakly responded to their demands. He asked them to bring the gold earrings their sons and daughter wore; jewelry the humiliated Egyptians gave them when they departed the Nile regions. Aaron melted the gold and then fashioned a huge golden calf, which the Israelites declared to be their god. Partying and reveling immediately ensued.

Two truths about this incident demand our attention. We marvel that Israel's patience grew so short. They couldn't even wait forty days before they gave up on God and asked for a visible sign of a deity like the golden calf. How long are you willing to wait on God when he puts your plans on hold or interrupts your schedule? When he obliges you to bide your time, do you get restless and doubtful?

Even more significant; many assume they must have a human leader to follow—a superior to guide them in the right path. Many Americans think they need an inspiring President to lead the country. Christians should know better. The Lord wants us to respect our leaders, regardless of their political leaning. Yet Jesus must be our leader and model. Human leaders often become corrupted by their power, lose their way because of pride, or fail because no person can foresee the future. Jesus must be the "pioneer and perfecter of our faith (*Hebrews 12:2*).

Bob Blair
PO Box 304
Marcus, IA 51035
www.robertblairbooks.com

