

# THE LIFE OF MOSES

## Lesson 8

## The Golden Calf

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### I. The People Sin (Exodus 32:1-10)

1. How long had Moses "delayed" coming down from the mountain? (see 24:18)
2. What conclusion do the people make about Moses, and their own future?
3. Why would they turn to Aaron with their request?
4. What role did Aaron have in creating the golden calf, and what role did the people themselves play? (32:2-5)
5. In what ways was the golden calf worship an attempt to worship the true God? In what ways was it not?
6. Consider the position in which Aaron found himself. Why might he have done what he did?

What lessons can leaders today take from his example?

7. The Lord reports to Moses what the people had done (32:7-8). What is His assessment of their character? (32:9)

What does He state to Moses was His intention? (32:10)

Was such a plan consistent with the covenant promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

### II. Moses Intercedes (Exodus 32:11-14)

1. What two reasons does Moses offer why the Lord should relent? (vs 11, 12)
2. Do these reasons rely on the people's goodness, or the Lord's character?
3. What final appeal does Moses make? (vs 13)
4. Which outcome (sparing the people, or obliterating them) would have been "better" for Moses himself?

### III. **Moses is Angry (Exodus 32:15-21)**

1. What did Moses carry with him down from the mountain? (32:14-16)
2. What sound did he and Joshua hear as they approached? (32:17-18)
3. Once Moses saw with his own eyes what the people were doing, what was his reaction? (32:19) How was his reaction symbolically appropriate?
4. What corrective active did he take?
5. Is his anger here inconsistent with the intercession we saw in vs 11-14?

### IV. **Moses Deals with Aaron (Exodus 32:21-24)**

1. How much blame does Moses place with Aaron? (see also verse 25)
2. What was the Lord's position on Aaron's role? (see Deuteronomy 9:20)
3. How does Aaron explain himself?

### V. **Moses Takes Control (Exodus 32:25-29)**

1. Who answered Moses' call to action?
2. What were these men instructed to do?
3. How extensive was this judgment?

### VI. **Moses Makes Atonement (Exodus 32:30-35)**

1. What expectation does Moses set for his return to the mountain?
2. What tremendous offer does Moses make to the Lord on behalf of the people?
3. What is the outcome of this exchange? (vs 33-35)
4. For the moment, at least, how is the relationship between the Lord and the people different? (32:34, see also 33:3, then 34:13-14)