

A Chapter That Should
Not Have Been Written

We defend Biblical inerrancy / inspiration

- A shock to hear that one chapter should not have been written – Exodus 32
- Explanation: children of Israel knew better
 - Their sin was flagrant
 - Their attitude was ‘uncalled for’

I. It Was Unnecessary

1. Rescue from Egypt:
a call for gratitude. Gal.5:1

2. Miraculous signs:

Undeniable certainty of God's revelation

Ex.15, 16, 17, 19-20, 34...

3. Clear teaching: plain duties Many reject plain Scriptures...

- Salvation
- Worship
- Work
- Morals

I. It Was Unnecessary

II. Why Did It Happen?

1. Moses was away, v.1

- Importance of good / godly friends
- Fickle people cannot be trusted alone.
Ph.2:12
- They assume Moses was lost / died on Sinai
- Their solution: turn to idols... Ex.19:4-6

2. Danger of 'mob think,' v.1

- Bad friends encourage others in evil...
- Discontents express doubts
- Feed off one another

3. Unspiritual, v.1

- Invisible God is not enough
- Immaturity needs visible idol
- They have stooped to same spiritual level as Egyptians

4. Ingratitude, v.1

- '*This Moses...*' – contempt / failure / unbelief
- Some despise those who fight error...

5. Failure in leadership, v.2

- Aaron, 2-5 – beyond strange
- Calf . . . their new god??
- Altar (v.5)?? Ex.20:4, no carved images...
 - Saul, 1 Sm.15

Modern version: some embrace the 'new'
but oppose the 'traditional.'

They encourage worldly wishes
of their people.

6. Quickly turned from revelation to revelry

- 6: play, amuse oneself
 - Gn.39:14, 17
 - 1 Co.10:7
 - Jd.4

7. Corrupted themselves: lawless.

(Complaining, ingratitude; never learned)

8: Turn aside: God's rules made to be broken?

9. Forgot wrath of God. Stiff-necked

- 9-10: wrath = justice [their 'rights']
- 11-13: if Moses had been ambitious...
 - Instead, Moses pleads for mercy
 - Reminds God of Egyptian rescue...what Egyptians would say...and remember... Abraham, Isaac, and Israel
- 14: God relented... Mercy

I. It Was Unnecessary

II. Why Did It Happen?

III. Day of Reckoning

Under the influence, 15-18

Moses and Aaron did not hear cries of war, or sound of defeat ... but influence of wine – satan's victory song...

Moses: 19 –

- Saw calf, dancing...broke tablets – broke covenant with God
 - Moses had tried to 'calm' God's wrath...
- Sinners feel judged by godly people...

Word, 19 – broke covenant with God

Judgment, 20 – ‘god’ can’t even save itself

Leaders, 21 –

- Leaders’ approval does not change vice into virtue (30)

Aaron: leader in sin

- 22-24, preach peace where there is no peace? Aaron excuses himself –
 - Israel's fault; the calf just 'happened' ? ?
 - Worshipped what his hands made
 - Confession offers hope
 - Excuse defends sin. Gn.3:12

Aaron: leader in sin

- 25, God sees facts. Ro.2 – truth
 - ‘Unrestrained’
 - ‘*Out of control*’ – NASB
 - ‘*Broken loose*’ – ESV
 - Cf. broken tablets – v.19

Levites (tribe of Moses) . . . on Lord's side –

- Death penalty (Judgment], 26-29
- Blind led blind, Mt.15:14
- 31-35, blaming the leaders never saved anyone

I. It Was Unnecessary

II. Why Did It Happen?

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IV. Lessons

1. Israel's problem is universal, Ac.7:...38-40

Rejected; in hearts...turned back to Egypt

- Problem is not Moses' absence, but Israel's heart failure
- 20: Moses forced outward change, but could not reach their heart
- Jer.3:...9-10

2. Feast...burnt / peace offerings,
eat, drink, and play, 5-6

No reference
to a
sin offering

No reference to
word / covenant,
Ex.24:6-8

3. God knew their condition, 7-8

- Though He wrote on the tables at Sinai, He saw what they did
- Though He spoke with Moses at Sinai, He heard what they said
- He hears and sees us. Ps.139

4. Some fall from God quickly, 8

Adam

Nadab
and
Abihu

Achan

Ananias

Galatians

Ps.106:19-22

- Forgot God
- Forgot their Savior
- Forgot God's mighty works

5. A good man cannot save us, 31-33

- Ps.106:23
- Valiant soldiers covered broken part of a wall under siege with their bodies
- Most Israelites fell anyway

6. Blotting out, 33

- Law threatened to blot out the sinner
- Gospel freely blots out the sin
- Ac.3:19
 - To remove so as to leave no trace,
remove, destroy, obliterate

7. Sin will pay its wages, 34-35

- Ro.6:21-22
- We served a cruel master for bitter fruit
- Satan made sin look attractive

Remember . . .

- God hates sin so much that He sent His Son to die on the cross
- God loves us so much that He sent His Son to the cross to save us
- Any time God tells us 'No,' it's for our own good
- Most Israelites never learned this lesson...