

1. Israel's Rebellion (32:1-6)
 - a. God's Commandments Against Idolatry (20:1-6; 20:23; 19:8; 24:3, 7)
 - b. The Attraction of Idolatry (32:1)
 - c. Forming the Golden Calf/Young Bull (32:2-4; Gen 2:7)
 - d. The Religious Festival to Worship the Bull (32:5-6; 24:1-11)
 - e. The Bottom Line: Lack of Trust in the Lord and His Representative Moses
2. The Lord's Wrath and Judgment (32:7-10)
 - a. Description of Israel's Sin
 1. They Have Corrupted Themselves (32:7)
 2. They Have Turned Aside and Disobeyed (32:8)
 3. They Have Made an Idol (32:8)
 4. They Have Worshiped the Idol, Sacrificed to It, Confessed their Faith in It, and Misattributed Their Salvation to It (32:8)
 - b. The Just Declaration of Judgment (32:9-10)
 - c. The Challenge to Moses, the Mediator (32:7, 10a)
3. Moses' Intercession (32:11-14)
 - a. Moses's Four-Part Appeal: to God's Greater Plans, to God's Glory, to God's Mercy, and to God's Promises (32:11-13)
 - b. The Lord Grants Moses' Appeal and Relents (32:14)
4. Our Mediator, the Greater Moses (John 17:1-10; Rom 8:34)

“Not only do the people request construction of an object that would serve as leader of the exodus and wilderness journey, an object defined as god and thus an idol that violates the second commandment, but they also identify the object as ‘gods’ and thus violate the first commandment.” —G. W. Coats

“The cow gave no law and demanded no obedience. It had no wrath or justice or holiness to be feared. It was deaf, dumb, and impotent. But at least it could not intrude on their fun and call them to judgment. This was a religion designed by men, practiced by men, and ultimately useless for men.” —R. C. Sproul

Reflection Questions (for personal reflection and family conversation):

1. Why is Israel's sin so grievous?
2. What is attractive about idolatry in Israel's context? In what ways is idolatry still attractive today?
3. How does Moses' intercession foreshadow the intercession of our savior Jesus Christ?