

## *Sermon Notes*

**Series: Exploring Exodus: Redemption from the Depths to Glory**

**Text: Exodus 32:1-10**

**Title: An Anatomy of Idolatry**

*2 lessons*

### **I. THE DEGENERATING COURSE OF IDOLATRY 1-6**

#### **A. IT IS FOUND IN AN UNBELIEVING PEOPLE 1**

The Distress of the People– impatient founded on unbelief .. not taking God at his word. Their timetable, schedule prevailed.

The Decision .....– an unholy alliance, assembly; a deliberate, devilish, decision of defiance

The Desperation .....– insistent, inane demand. Forgetting Yahweh’s Self-revelation, Ex 19:7-20:21; covenant promises to Abraham; etc.

The Dismissal .....– “this Moses”.. very disrespectful, pejorative, scornful

#### **B. IT IS FURTHERED BY AN UNSTABLE PREACHER 2-4**

His Dutiful Compliance– contrast Ex 14:14-16. Aaron should have turned them back to God, etc. Unstable, unfaithful. Theocracy overturned by devilish democracy. Huge gap in today’s churches between their numbers and reflection of Christ; between “preaching” and gospel of Jesus Christ. Leaders turning away from Christ’s Word and Sacrament rule to cultural Christianity=Christless Christianity. His Deliberate Command – take off, bring, to me. Effective leader in wrong direction! I’ll satisfy your felt needs. I’ll take you Their Their Depraved Creativity– better molten image. Bull=image of Egyptian god of fertility, Apis.

Their Disgusting Cry – scandalous! absurd! Ascribing Yahweh’s attributes, etc., to this lifeless, filthy beast. The sinful exchange, Rom 1:25. Moses’ recollection, Dt 9:1-16. Provocation of God in vv. 7-8, 18. Part of their wretched history, Ps 106:19; Neh 9:18; etc.

#### **C. IT IS FINALIZED IN AN UNBOUNDED PERVERSION 5-6**

The Further Deterioration– on a downward slope with no brakes, boundaries because of their departure from the Lord and his Word. contrast Jn 8:31-32; 15:7-8; 2 Jn 1:9; etc.

The Foolish Declaration– will worship in saw, built, called, said; echo of Gen 3:6. New and improved worship! Significance of “feast.”

The “Faithful” Dedication– their devotion, diligence. Brought=cultic, Ex 19:22; 20:21; Lev 2:8; 8:14; etc. Contrast Isa 29:13.

Their Fervent Demonstration– play=laughter (Isaac); sport; etc., Gen 18:12-13; 39:14, 17; Jdg 16:25; Maybe including sexual acts to placate god of fertility. Danger of creating, worshipping God in our image. This god will give us what we want. **Aaron = unstable anti-mediator.** God’s gracious protection of us, 1 Cor 10:6-7, 11; most gracious provision for us, in Jn 1:1-18; 14:9; Heb 1:1-3

### **II. THE DIVINE CONDEMNATION OF IDOLATRY 7-10**

#### **A. HIS SORROWFUL AWARENESS 7-8**

The Disowning of the People– your people, not mine. Words of covenant separation, termination.

The Departure .... – used of God, Jdg 16:20; 1 Sam 16: 14; of God’s people, Dt 19:12; 11:16; Eze 36:9; apostatize; same in Gal 1:6

The Deception .... – by such a savage thought. The Disobedience .... – recall Ex 20:1-6. The Defilement .... – Eze 20:7, 30-31; 23:29-30.

The Disfigurement ....– Ps 115:4-9; 2 Ki 17:15; etc. Contrast 2 Cor 3:18. The Destruction .... – kingdom barring, 1 Cor 6:9-10; Rev 21:8,22:15

#### **B. HIS SEVERE ASSESSMENT 9**

They Resist My Will– Ps 51:4. Stiffnecked = stubborn; hard; difficult; etc., Ex 34:9. Stubborn in Dt 10:16; Jdg 2:19; etc. Acts 7:51.

They Reject My Will– reject it, cast it off. However, Christ’s yoke is easy, Mt 11:28-30.

#### **C. HIS SCORCHING ANGER 10**

His Consuming Power– lit. anger burn, 2 Ki 13:3. resolute, controlled exercise of justice, hatred of sin, etc. Must vindicate his holiness

His Compassionate Prerogative– sparing, preserving, out of fallen, sinful, condemned mass, for his own glory.

His Consistent Pattern – remnant. However, Jesus on the cross, fully immolated by divine wrath. No sparing. On the cross, divine wrath, mercy and glory shown at fullest. Out of Christ alone come God’s elect from all nations, etc., for faithful assembly, contra v. 1