

## Sermon Notes

Series: Exploring Exodus: Redemption from the Depths to Glory

Text: Exodus 32:1-4

Title: An Intensive Inquiry into Idolatry, Pt. I

2 discoveries

### I. THE INITIAL CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO IDOLATRY

1

#### A. THEIR PRESSING UNEASINESS

1A

Caused by Moses' absence. Anxiety, apprehension over "no mo" Moses. Gathered against.. – an unholy assembly for rebellion and sin; a called meeting. Fearful, frenzied impatience. where did Moses go? Ex 32-34= paradigm of their relationship with Yahweh in OT

#### B. THEIR PRESUMPTUOUS UNREASONABLENESS

1B

Dissatisfied with Yahweh's saving Presence– pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. Arrogant, brazen and thoughtless. Make a god (gods)... who shall go before us?!\* The people's initiative, choice. Need a mediator *con carne*. Anticipates foolish cry, v. 4.; faithful confession, 1 Tim 3:16; Heb 2:14; Jn 1:1, 14; Apostles', Nicene, etc. Creeds. Irony of grace.

#### C. THEIR PATENT UNTRUTH

1C

A blatant, manifest lie. Recall Ex 24:16, 18. This Moses = derogatory sense. No conflict between 3:12; 33:1; Dt 9:12 and Ex 12:17, 51:20:2. See Mic 6:4. A disdainful, dismissive. Lack of faith. The denial of faith (in God) and of faithful living. Very displeasing to God, Heb 11:6.

### II. THE INCREASING COLLAPSE INTO IDOLATRY

2-4

3 glaring, shocking ironies.

#### A. THE REVERSED DESIGNATIONS

2

Recall Ex 24:14; 4:14-16, 29. The leader becomes the follower; the people's choice; wins the pastor of the year award. An anti-leader, an anti-mediator. The sovereignty of the people; give them what they want. Early form of consumerism. His Immediate Consent – 2 swift imperatives. His "Insightful" Command– misuse, abuse of God's redemptive gifts; recall 12:35-36.

#### B. THE REMARKABLE DECISION

3

Immediate, mass obedience. Unity in iniquity.

#### C. THE RESOURCEFUL DEPRAVITY

4

Very inventive, imaginative way of worship. Moses on mount with God receiving instructions for building tabernacle; people in the plains devising their own object, form, liturgy of worship. Note contrasts between Ex 25:8; Jn 1:14; and Ex 32:1-4.

The Creativity of Depravity–calf or bull = 1 of most important Egyptian images representing Egypt's gods. But Ex 12:12 !

The Celebration of Depravity–their cry. Representation of the true God by a pagan image – see v. 8; contrast Ex 20:1.

The Cradle of Depravity– their heart, Eze 11:19-21; 14:4, 7; idol factory Their god is objectified, glorified; but their **true God** is vilified– Ex 20:1-4; Dt 4:12, 15; Jn 4:24; Col 1:15; 1 Tim 1:17.

The Cry of Depravity– confession of "fake." Cf. 1 Ki 12:28.

The Copying of Depravity– Dt 29: 16-18; Eze 16:26; 20:7-8; 23:7-8;etc

The Confirmation of Depravity– rejection of their commitment, Ex 24:3, 7. Also, Ps 106:19-20; Jer 2:11; Rom 1:23– God's external reflection of his invisible self as well as his reflected glory upon them because of their close proximity to him, Ex 34:29-35; Hos 9:11; Hos 4:7. Yahweh now represented by an idol; clear violation of 2nd commandment. They now reflect, become what they worship- their idol!!

Their absurdity and irrationality are confirmed.