

Robert gives the devotion on “Israelites’ apostasy and Moses’ intercession” based on Exodus 32:1-14

- The Lord reminds the Israelites to “remember the Lord your God” (Deut 8:18) and warns them against “forget the Lord your God, and follow other gods...” (Deut 8:19)
- “Forgetting the Lord and Following other gods” are two related acts, and is a very grievous sin.
- But not long after Exodus, the Israelites forsake the Lord, and worship the “Golden Calf”.
- Step back to Exodus 24:17-18:
 - The glory of the Lord appears to the Israelites as a consuming fire
 - Moses alone sees the Lord face-to-face on the mountain top
 - For 40 days and forty nights, he receives instructions from the Lord on the Ark, the lamp stand, the Tabernacle, Priestly garments, & various priestly, moral and civil laws. (Exodus 25-31)
- The people’s request to Aaron v1-6
 - The people are impatient as to Moses’ delayed return. “What has become of him? Dead, alive, have a good time with the Lord? Up with the Lord? Desert his leadership (AWOL)? Lost on his way down?”
 - Want a god that they can see!
 1. Gone is the divine presence on their forward journeys
 2. Forget the Lord – extreme ingratitude of “deliverance from bondage, victory over Amalekites, daily supply of food, divine law in a moral darkness.
 3. They want Aaron to make gods that they can see.
 4. Aaron compromises his priestly duty and complies! Why? Scared to be killed?
 5. They celebrate. “sat down to eat & drink, and rose up to play” They have a great time!
- Our Lord comments v7-10:
 - Have corrupted themselves quickly. “Go get down” v. 7
 - God is ready to disown them saying “Your people” → Moses’ people
 - They make a molded calf. Worship and sacrifice to it – only reserve to Him, God of the universe
 - This is a stiff neck people
 - My wrath will consume them.
- Moses intercedes for the people v11-14 (also v31-35, 33:12-18, 34:9)
 - Model for Christian ministers
 1. plead like Jacob “I will not let thee go, except thou bless me” Gen 32:26
 2. wrestle: put his eternal life on the stake v31 “but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written”
 3. Forsake God’s offer to “make you a great nation” v. 10
 - Confess: v31 “these people have committed a great sin...”
 - exhort God’s love for His own: this is Your people whom you brought out – v.11
 - Satan (Egypt) triumphs if His people is swept away. God brings His people out of Egypt not to save but to kill them.
 - His promise to the forefathers v13
- Applications:
 - The Prayer meeting is forum to intercede for God’s people
 - “Forget not the Lord” and “Forget not his mercy either”. Exodus 34:6
 - Pray according to His promises.
 - Never give up praying for our loved ones.