

Exodus 32:30-35 **Atonement for the people of Israel**

30 Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

31 Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! 32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

33 And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.

34 Now therefore, go, lead the people to the place of which I have spoken to you. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin."

35 So the LORD plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

- ✧ Moses acknowledged that the thing the people had done with the golden calf was a great sin in the eyes of Yehowah and that God was justified to respond with severity.
- ✧ Moses also realized that he was in a unique position as mediator between God and sinful mankind.
- ✧ Moses expressed his intention to attempt to make atonement for the people, but he realized that God would have the final say in the matter, as he said to the people, "Now I will go up to Yehowah, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."
 - ◇ Moses began his intercession by first acknowledging and confessing the sin of the people.
 - ◇ Then he appealed for their forgiveness, offering to have his own name blotted out of God's book if God will not forgive the people.
- ✧ God confirmed that He does have a book with our names written in it and that He will blot out the names of the sinners from it. [Exodus 32:33, Revelation 3:5]
- ✧ God's answer demonstrates the severity of God's character in that he is merciful toward the innocent, but He will by no means clear the guilty. [Exodus 32:33, 34:7]
- ✧ The death penalty had already been pronounced against idolatry, and still demands satisfaction, the guilty will be blotted out of God's book.
- ✧ God then instructed Moses to lead the people to the promised land with a promise that His Angel will go before them.
- ✧ God also reminded Moses that the day of reckoning is coming in which God will visit the punishment upon the wicked for their sin.
- ✧ Even though the Levites had killed 3,000 rebellious men, God still plagued the people because of their idolatry toward the Golden Calf that Aaron had made.
- ✧ Israel is called to be the example for all future generations of the Children of Israel. As such they became the example to both Jew and Gentile, revealing God's ways and showing His punishment, which demonstrates the seriousness with which God views their actions.
- ✧ Without exacting a serious punishment for their actions as God is establishing the nation, no one would put any stock in the prescribed penalty for any sin to follow. But, since God demonstrated severity as He established precedent in the Law, we know without a doubt that He means what He says and we should take His Word very seriously.