



EXPOSING THE  
**GOLDEN CALF**

## Aaron's Call & The Golden Calf

### Aaron, the First High Priest – Exodus 4-32

#### I. Aaron's Calling and Partnership with Moses

- Aaron often stands in Moses' shadow, yet God gives him a unique and vital role.
- Aaron becomes the first high priest, serving as a mediator between God and the people.
- Moses provides direction; Aaron provides communication.
- **Exodus 4:10-16 (NLT)** - God appoints Aaron to speak for Moses.
  - Moses doubts his speaking ability.
  - God provides Aaron as a spokesperson.
  - Aaron will be Moses' "mouthpiece."

#### II. Key Events in Aaron's Early Ministry

##### 1. Confronting Pharaoh (**Exodus 5-11**)

- Moses and Aaron deliver God's message: "Let my people go."
- Pharaoh increases the Hebrews' workload.
- Despite opposition, Moses and Aaron obey God.
  - **Exodus 7:6 (NLT)** - "Moses and Aaron did just as the Lord commanded."

##### 2. Battle Against the Amalekites (**Exodus 17**)

- Israel is attacked at Rephidim.
- Moses stands on the hill with the staff of God.
- When Moses' arms grow tired, Aaron and Hur hold them up.
  - Israel prevails as long as Moses' hands remain raised.

##### 3. Priestly Appointment (**Exodus 28-29**)

- At Mount Sinai, God appoints Aaron and his sons as priests.
  - **Exodus 28:1 (NLT)** - Aaron and his sons are set apart to minister.
- Priests oversee worship, sacrifices, and spiritual guidance.
- Aaron becomes the high priest, responsible for all priestly ministry.
- God commands special garments to distinguish Aaron for service.
  - **Exodus 28:2-3 (NLT)** - Garments "glorious and beautiful."

#### III. Aaron's Strengths and Weaknesses

- Aaron thrives under Moses' leadership.
- Aaron struggles when leading alone.
- Even great leaders fail-but only God deserves full allegiance.

## The Golden Calf – Exodus 32

### I. Impatience With God Leads to Bad Decisions

**Exodus 32:1** — “Come, make us gods that shall go before us.”

- Israel grew impatient waiting for Moses.
- Impatience led them to create their own solution.
- A “temporary idol” is still an idol.
- Illustration: When God seems slow, we try to “help Him along.”

### II. Aaron Compromised Instead of Leading

**Exodus 32:2–4** — Aaron said, “Break off the golden earrings...”

- Aaron didn’t resist—he cooperated.
- Leadership fails when we seek approval instead of obedience.
- Illustration: A father who stays silent instead of guiding spiritually.

### III. Sin Always Leads to Spiritual Blindness

**Exodus 32:5–6** — “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.”

- They mixed God’s name with idolatry.
- Sin blurs spiritual clarity.
- Illustration: Saying “I love Jesus” while living unchanged.

### IV. God Takes Idolatry Seriously

**Exodus 32:7–10** — “Your people... have corrupted themselves.”

- Idolatry is relational betrayal.
- God’s anger reflects His wounded covenant relationship.
- Illustration: Betrayal in marriage—trust is broken.

### V. Moses Interceded for the People

**Exodus 32:11–14** — Moses prayed for mercy.

- Moses stood in the gap.
- Every family needs an intercessor.
- Illustration: A man praying over his home when others drift.

### VI. Moses Confronted the Sin Directly

**Exodus 32:19–20** — Moses broke the tablets and destroyed the calf.

- Israel tasted the emptiness of their idol.
- God often lets us taste consequences so we won’t return to sin.
- Illustration: Chasing money, lust, or status—only to find it empty.

### VII. God Calls Us to Destroy Our Idols Today

**Exodus 32:26–28** — “Whoever is on the LORD’s side—come to me!”

- God still calls His people to choose sides.
- Not “Who goes to church?” but “Who is truly on the Lord’s side?”

### Modern Idols We Worship Today

- **Success** — career, money, status.
  - **Entertainment** — screens, streaming, scrolling.
  - **Pleasure** — lust, pornography, substances.
  - **Approval** — living for likes and validation.
  - **Self** — comfort, feelings, personal desires above God.
1. Identify your idol.
  2. Destroy it—don’t manage it.
  3. Return fully to God.