

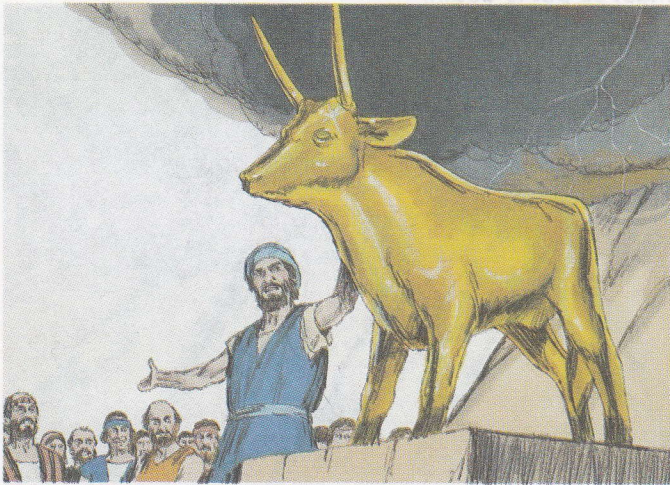
# The Golden Calf



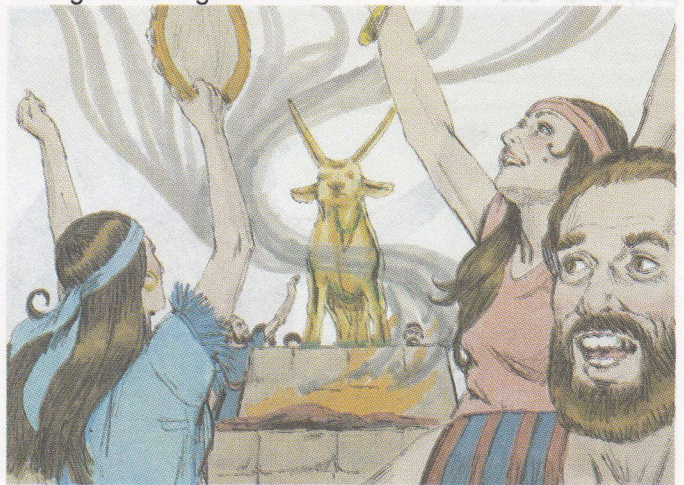
**1** Moses was on Mount Sinai forty days and forty nights while God wrote on stone tablets ten important commandments for his people.



**2** The people grew restless. "We don't know what has happened to Moses," they said to Aaron. "Make us a god to lead us." So Aaron had them bring all their gold earrings to him.



**3** Aaron melted the gold and molded a golden calf. The people shouted, "This is our god, who led us out of Egypt!" They brought sacrifices and began eating, drinking, singing, and dancing.



**4** The Lord said to Moses on the mountain, "Hurry back to the camp. Your people, whom you led out of Egypt, have sinned and rejected me. They have made an idol and are worshipping it."



**5** God was so angry that he wanted to destroy them. But Moses pleaded, "Do not destroy the people. Remember your promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." So God changed his mind.

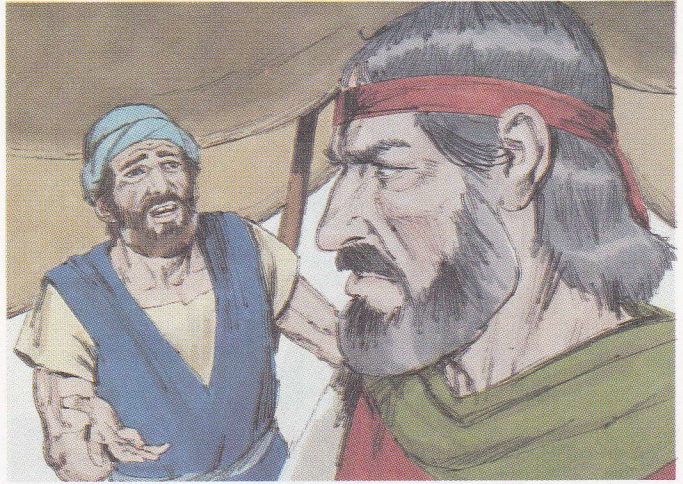


**6** Moses went down the mountain with the two stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments. When he saw the golden calf and the people dancing, he threw down the tablets and broke them.

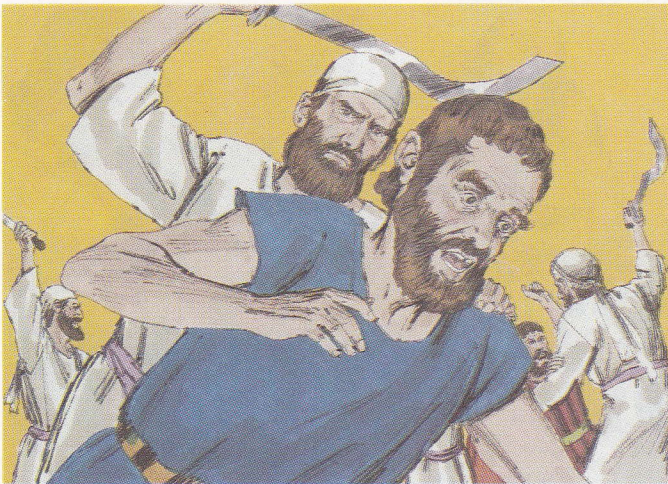




**7** Moses took the image the people had made and melted it. He ground it into fine powder. Then he mixed it with water and made the people of Israel drink it.



**8** When Moses asked Aaron why he had done such a terrible thing, Aaron blamed it on the people. He also gave this excuse: "I threw the ornaments into the fire, and out came this calf!"



**9** The Lord was angry at the people's sin. At his command, the Levites went through the camp that day and killed about 3,000 of the Israelites who had disobeyed the Lord.



**10** Then the Lord told Moses to cut two more stone tablets and bring them to the top of the mountain. Once again the Ten Commandments were written on the stone tablets.



**11** After forty days and forty nights, Moses delivered the laws of the Lord to the people. The first four commands told the people how to respect and worship God and him alone.



**12** The last six commands told the people of their duties to one another: not to steal, lie, covet, or kill; to honor their parents and be true to their mates. The people promised to obey the Lord.