



Biblical theology 2;
<http://amdg.eu/fer-bt2>

The fateful Desert

*Faith and Infidelity
on the Way to Freedom*

Exod 32:1–14



Who freed the people?

- Opinion about Moses in Exod 31:1?
 - “Moses brought us up” (cf. v7.23)
 - God (v7); Aaron (v23)
 - History (Exod 2:23):
 - The Israelites groaned under their slavery (v23)
 - Command in 3:10; result in 12:51:
 - “bring my people out” (3:10) →
 - “יהוה brought the Israelites out” (12:51)
 - Dealing with the slavery in Exod 16:3?
 - Fleshpots, our fill of bread (16:3)
 - ⇔ dealing with freedom: the desert
- Demand in 32:1 (v23)?
 - “Make us a god!”
 - Whom do we follow; who is God?
 - ⇔ What did they hear, what did they promise in 20:2 and 24:3.7?
 - I brought you up (20:2)
 - We will do 2x (24:3.7)



God and gods

- The proclamation of the people in Exod 32:4:
- *This is your god who brought you*
 - Cf. 1 Kings 12:28; Nehemiah 9:18
 - “The sin of Jeroboam”
- אלהים *'elohîm* + plural
 - “**They** brought you out” (Exod 32:4),
“**they** shall go before us” (v1)
- A calf – not a bull
- Aarons role in general:
 - Moses never eloquent (Exod 4:10)
 - “he shall be as a mouth for you” (v16)
- High Priest (Lev 8s), ancestor
 - You shall not make gods of gold! (Exod 20:23)



Lorrain Claude, Klanjanje zlatnom teletu, 1660.

- Correcting in 32:5?
- “a feast for יהוה” (?)
 - Result in v6:
- Eating, drinking, playing – in the desert
 - Aaronitic pretext (v24):
- “and out came this calf”

A temptation for Moses?

- Up on the Mountain: Exod 32:7-10
- God's words to Moses
- **ראיתי *ra'îti* (1. sg.; 32:9)**
 - "I have seen the affliction" (3:7)
 - "...how they oppress them" (v9)
 - "I have seen this people" (32:9)
- **God's evaluation in 32:8**
 - Turn aside from the way
 - Worship, sacrifice to the calf
 - Proclamation: "these are your gods..." (32:4.8)
- **Let my anger burn! ⇔ I will make a great nation! (32:10)**
 - Does he need Moses' permission?



Intercessor

- Exod 32:11-14;
before whom? (v11)
- Before יהיה, *his God*
 - Who brought out from slavery?
- “You brought out” (v11)
 - ⇔ Not Moses alone (v1.7)
 - ⇔ Not the image of calf (v4.8)
 - “I brought you out”
(Exod 20:2; Deut 5:6)
- God’s anger (Exod 32,10) in v11s
 - “Why? – To what end?” (v11)
 - “Turn from your anger!”
שוב *šûb* – conversion (v12)
- Success in v12.14?
- Take pity! (v12) →
He took pity (v14)
 - Change your mind!
- נחם *niḥam* – regret, be
sorry, comfort, console



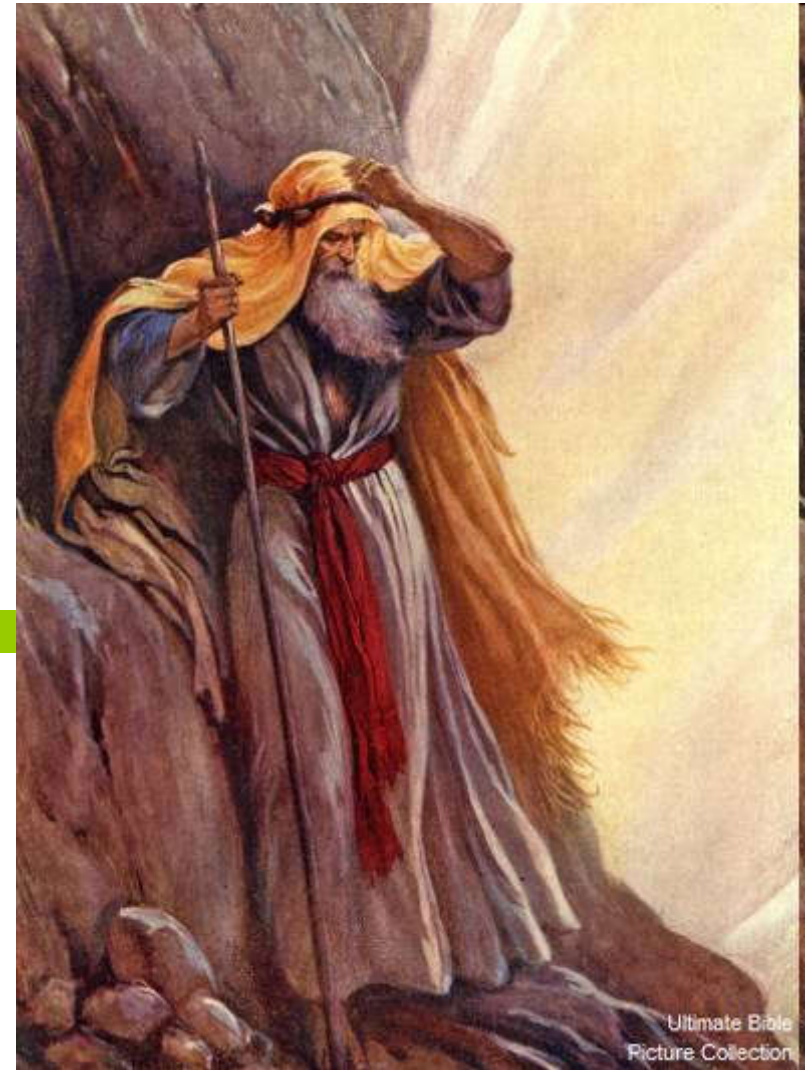
Method of prayer

- ❑ Reminder of *servants* and divine oath in Exod 32:13
- ❑ “you swore by your own self” (32:13)
- ❑ Descendants as numerous as the stars
 - To Abraham: Gen 15:5; 22:17
 - To Isaac: Gen 26:4
- ❑ The Land to Abraham:
 - I will give to your descendants... (Gen 12:7 cf. 13:15; 15:18; 17:8; 24:7)
- ❑ To *Isaac*:
 - to you and to your descendants I will give... (Gen 26:3s)
- ❑ To *Jacob*:
 - to you and to your descendants I will give... (Gen 28:13; 35:12; 48:4)



The second chance for Moses

**The experienced
Redeemer of the people
in the School of God
(Exod 34:5-9)**



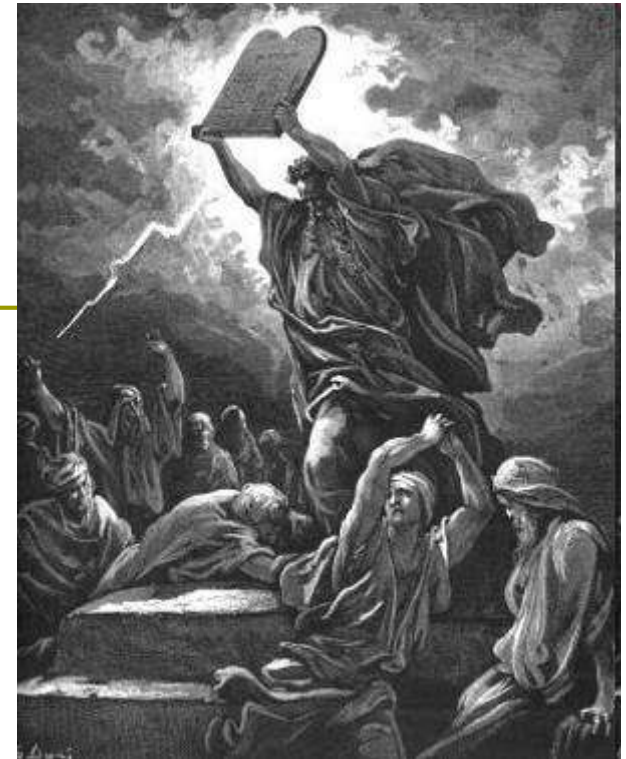
Formula of God's mercy

- An order to Moses in Exod 34:2?
- Come up to Mount Sinai (v2); alone (v3)
 - 40 days and nights once more (34:28 cf. 24:18)
 - Definition of the name יהוה u 34:6?
- merciful (רחם *raḥam*), gracious (חנן *ḥanan*), slow to anger, rich in steadfast love (חסד *ḥésed*) and faithfulness (34,6) = zealous (v14)
 - “I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious (חנן *ḥanan*) and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy (רחם *raḥam* 33,19),
- keeps steadfast love (חסד *ḥésed*) for thousands, *visiting* the iniquity (34:7)
 - forgiving (“carrying”) iniquity and transgression and sin (7)



A lesson for Moses

- ***Show me your ways!* (Exod 33:13)**
 - Moses action in 32:19; 34:1?
- **Broke the tablets! (32:19; 34:1)**
 - *His anger burned hot* (32:19.22)
⇔ 32:10.11.12
 - Whose order for punishment in 32:28?
 - “as Moses commanded”
- **Announced restrictions in 33:22s:**
 - A cleft of the rock (33,22)
 - Covering hand (22s)
 - Seeing his back (v23) ⇔ all let out, there is none
- **God “descended” (34:5)**



The fruits

- Moses' reaction in Exod 34:8?
- “quickly bowed toward the earth, and worshiped”
- Prayer in 34:9 (cf. 33:3; 32:30)
 - “let the Lord go with us” (34:9) ⇔ “I will not go” (33:3)
 - “If I have found favor, go with *us*” (34:9)
 - “pardon *our* iniquity and *our* sin” (34:9) ⇔ “YOUR sin” (32:30)
- The lasting fruits in 34:28; 29s.35?
- New tablets of the covenant (34:28)
- The skin of his face shone (34:29s.35)

