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 ind 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

- רָאִיתִי (ra’îtî) (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 יְהֹוָה, 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!” שׁוב – conversion (v12)
- Success in v12.14?
- Take pity! (v12) → He took pity (v14)
  - Change your mind!
- נִחָם 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 Redemeer 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 (רהם raḥam), gracious (חנן ḥanan), slow to anger, rich in steadfast love (חסד ḥésed) and faithfullness (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 (רהם 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)