



Introduction

When Moses comes back to the camp after being up the mountain, he has problems.



Questions

1. How did Aaron make the moulded calf and what did he tell Moses about making it?
2. What did the children of Israel say about the moulded calf?
3. What did Moses say to the LORD about the people making the moulded calf?



Summary Points

- **v 1 to 6** In Moses' absence, Aaron makes a moulded calf when he is asked by the people to make gods. Aaron builds an altar before the calf and proclaims a feast to the LORD
- **v 7 to 10** Because of this sin (see theme), God threatens to destroy the people and make a nation of Moses' descendants
- **v 11 to 14** God removes the threat when Moses reminds him that he must keep his promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- **v 15 to 20** Moses comes down the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant. When he sees the calf and the dancing he throws the tablets away breaking them. He then destroys the calf and makes the children of Israel drink the powdered remains
- **v 21 to 29** Aaron gives Moses his view of what has just happened. The sons of Levi come to Moses when he asks who is on the LORD's side. At Moses' command the sons of Levi kill about 3,000 men. Moses tells the sons of Levi to consecrate themselves so they will be blessed by the LORD
- **v 30 to 35** Moses pleads with God for the people. He asks the LORD to remove him from his book if the people can't be forgiven. God replies that it is those who sin against him who will be removed from his book. Moses is told to carry on leading the people and the Lord strikes the people because of the calf

Timeline 1500 BC (see below)



Theme

Sin - a serious matter

The word sin means to miss the mark. We sin when we don't achieve what God would like us to do. A selection of verses showing the serious results of sin.

The apostle James tells us that we sin as a result of our own natural desires. He also points out the consequences:

James 1 verses 14 and 15

The apostle Paul tells his fellow Jews that they are no better than non-Jews because we are all sinners:

Romans 3 verses 9 and 10



He also spells out the serious consequences of sin:

Romans 5 verse 12

The book of Genesis tells us what God says when he passes sentence on the man through whom sin enters the world. The results are with us still:

Genesis 3 verses 17 to 19

The apostle John tells us that we are deceiving ourselves if we deny that we are sinners:

1 John 1 verse 8

? Answers to questions

Verses which answer the questions:

Q 1: v 4 and 24, Q 2: v 4, Q 3: v 31 and 32



Bible timeline

