

## *A note from Kathy*

*This chapter is a beautiful example of intercessory prayer. Let's keep this in mind as we study Exodus 32. Often when other's need is great they are the least able to do for themselves. Even when we are miles apart or the need is something out of our control we can pray and ask God to meet the need. Never underestimate the power of prayer.*

## *Observation*

1. In verse 1 we see the Israelites motivated by fear. What were they afraid of and what was their solution?
2. What came over Aaron that prompted him to go along with this rebellious crowd? How would memorizing Proverbs 29:25 keep us from following in Aaron's footsteps?
3. Take a close look at Exodus 32:4; what did Aaron do? List the steps.
4. What was planned for the next day, after the golden calf had been made?  
It is a very short step from rebellion to immorality. What did the people do early in the morning, according to verse 6?
5. Look at verse 8; list the steps the rebellious Israelites took as they turned away from God.
6. What did God call these people? What does this name imply?
7. Moses interceded for the people when God's anger was hot against them. Read verses 11-13 and make a list of the attributes of God seen in Moses' plea for the Israelites. What impresses you about the dialogue between God and Moses?

8. What gift had God given Moses while he was on the mountain? Was this a surprise to Moses? Look up Exodus 24:12.
9. Who did Moses meet up with again on his way down the mountain? What did this mighty man of valor think was going on in the camp?
10. What was Moses' response? Describe these sounds.
11. As Moses, along with Joshua, approached the camp, what do you think was going on in his heart as he got closer and closer and could actually view the events? Where had he just been and what had he been doing? How would you describe this feeling?
12. In his heartache and anger, what did Moses do that I'm sure he very quickly would regret?
13. How did Moses handle the disaster he faced?
14. Notice the question Moses posed to Aaron. How would you word this if you were speaking to Aaron?
15. What typical responses do we see in verses 22-24?
16. Moses makes a declaration in verse 26. What did this clarify?
17. Do you believe everyone who was involved died in verse 28?  
If so, who was Moses speaking to in verse 30? If they did not all die, why some and not all?
18. What do we find Moses doing again?
19. Verse 35 said that the Lord sent a plague on the people. Who were the ones affected by this plague? Do not answer this too quickly; reason through this judgment.

## *Application*

1. **What specific instructions were given to the people concerning following Moses up onto the mountain? Do you find time and distance causes you some anxiety? Have you ever left church and thought you could share Jesus with anyone but by Wednesday or Thursday the world has overwhelmed you? What do you do to remedy this?**

### **Ex.24:1-2**

*Then he said to Moses, "Come up to the LORD, you and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel. You are to worship at a distance, but Moses alone is to approach the LORD; the others must not come near. And the people may not come up with him."*

### **Ex. 24:13-18**

*Moses set out with Joshua his aide, and Moses went up on the mountain of God. He said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Aaron and Hur are with you, and anyone involved in a dispute can go to them." When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain. Then Moses entered the cloud as he went on up the mountain. And he stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights.*

2. **What did the top of the mountain look like to the Israelites below? When you listen to the news do you ever feel like all is lost? Do you ever question where are all the godly leaders?**
3. **What was the Israelite's heart problem in Exodus 32:1? Where do you turn when you experience this?**
4. **Before we get too judgmental of the Israelites, let's consider our own situations and fears. When you are afraid, are you tempted to look for security in another source, especially if you feel abandoned by God? How did you handle it the last time you were afraid like this?**

5. **When someone feels abandoned by God how can we be of help?**

When I was a child I did not know how to swim, even now I am not a good swimmer. Once with friends I got into water that was moving rather swiftly and before I knew it I was in too deep and panicked. I tried and tried to swim toward the shore but it felt hopeless. I was about to give up when I heard someone yell "put your feet down". When I did I could barely touch but it was enough to help me stop my panic and regain my focus. That was enough to save my life.

6. God had left Aaron and Hur to handle all disputes while Moses was on the mountain. These men were mighty men of faith; they had held up Moses' arms while Joshua and the Israelites defeated the Amalekites. Exodus 17:12  
The scripture does not say where Hur was while all of this was happening. What might Aaron have done before giving in to the people's rebellious demands? What do you do when you are in a similar situation, when those around you are ready to rebel against what is right and good?
7. Like Moses, are you willing to intercede for sinners? Write a short prayer on the back of your page.
8. How do you respond when you are faced with someone's idolatrous worship?
9. What type of idol worship do we see today that should break our hearts? What altars are many people worshipping at that have nothing to do with the Lord?
10. Is there anything we can do to stop this? As a believer what is our responsibility? You might want to prioritize your answer. What is the first thing I can do? What is the next step?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.