THE QUESTION

What did early Christians learn from Moses and the golden calf (Exodus 32:1–35)?

Asked by a THF member on April 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 15 early Christian passages and 126 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-early-christians-learn-from-moses-and-the-golden-calf

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Early writers saw Moses in Exodus 32 as a model of self-giving love, because he begged God to forgive the people or blot him out with them. They also note his anger at the calf, Israel's heart turning back to Egypt, and that even Moses could not simply pray away the people's sin.

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POINT 1 OF 7

God sent Moses down to a fallen people

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Rome retells the scene on the mountain. After forty days of fasting, Moses is told to go down at once because the people he led out of Egypt have already turned aside and made idols.

1 “When Moses went up into the mount, and stayed there, with fasting and humiliation, forty days and forty nights, the Lord said to him, “Moses, Moses, go down quickly from here; for your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have committed iniquity. They have quickly departed from the way in which I commanded them to walk, and have made for themselves molten images.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 15, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 7

Moses would rather perish with them

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

God offers to make Moses a great nation, but Moses refuses. Clement calls his answer marvelous love: the servant speaks boldly, asks forgiveness for the people, and offers to perish with them rather than be spared alone.

2 “O marvelous love! O insuperable perfection! The servant speaks freely to his Lord, and asks for forgiveness for the people, or begs that he himself might perish along with them.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Source 15, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 7

He broke the tablets at the calf

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Barnabas describes Moses coming down with the two tablets written by God's finger. When he saw the molten images, he threw the tablets down and they broke. Barnabas reads this as the people proving unworthy of the covenant at that moment.

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3

"And Moses understood that they had made molten images again; and he threw the tablets out of his hands, and the tables of the testament of the Lord were broken."

later in the same passage

"Moses then received it, but they proved themselves unworthy."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Barnabas,** *Epistle of Barnabas* (c. 70–132 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 1, page 5 Read it in the library ›

POINT 4 OF 7

The calf showed hearts turned to Egypt

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus, drawing on Stephen's speech, says the people turned back to Egypt in their hearts and asked Aaron to make them gods. He adds that the burden that followed was a kind of bondage that still did not cut them off from God.

4

"But when they turned to making a calf, and in their minds reverted to Egypt, wanting to be slaves instead of free people, they were placed in a future state of servitude suitable to their desire—a slavery that did not disconnect them from God but subjected them to the yoke of bondage."

later in the same passage

"Luke also records that Stephen, who was the first chosen into the diaconate by the apostles, and who was the first to be killed for the testimony of Christ, spoke about Moses as follows: "This man did indeed receive the commandments of the living God to give to us, whom your ancestors would not obey, but pushed [Him away], and in their hearts turned back to Egypt, saying to Aaron, Make us gods to go before us; for we do not know what happened to [this] Moses, who led us from the land of Egypt."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 4, page 5 Read it in the library ›

POINT 5 OF 7

God's pardon is a healing remedy

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria names the calf made before Aaron as an example of how repentance leads to pardon. He stresses that pardon is not only letting someone off, but a cure for what is wrong.

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5 “This shows that the nature of repentance is to bring pardon. But pardon does not consist in mere remission, but in remedy.”

later in the same passage

“An example of the same thing is the making of the calf by the people before Aaron.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 2.15 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›

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POINT 6 OF 7

Even God's friend could not win everything

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian notes that Moses, the friend of God who spoke with Him face to face, did not receive all he asked. God answered that He would blot out those who had sinned. Cyprian sets this beside Jeremiah's case to show that even a great saint's prayer does not simply cancel sin against God.

6 “He was the friend of God. He had often spoken face to face with the Lord. Yet he could not obtain what he asked, nor could he calm the wrath of an angry God by his plea.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 10, page 6** Read it in the library ›

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7 “In Exodus, Moses prays for the people, and his prayer is not granted.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 12, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Christ gives the covenant Moses carried

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Barnabas contrasts Moses with Christ. Moses received the covenant as a servant, but the people lost it at the calf. Christ, who suffered for us, gives it to His people as their inheritance.

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8 "Moses, as a servant, received it; but the Lord himself, having suffered on our behalf, has given it to us, that we should be the people of inheritance."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Barnabas,** *Epistle of Barnabas* (c. 70–132 AD) **Source 1, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not explain why the Levites were told to strike down their own people.
- They say little about Aaron's own excuse or how much blame he carried.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 15 early Christian passages and 126 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–15, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 16–113, in Bible order), then 28 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *15 passages from 10 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · sources 1–2*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* **Quotes 3, 8, pages 3, 5** give it, but they were not worthy to receive it because of their sins. For the prophet declares, "Moses was fasting for forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai… [continues online] **read ›**

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 7) take heed now to yourselves, and not be like some, adding greatly to your sins and saying, "The covenant is theirs and ours." But they ultimately lost it, even after… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 3*

3 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 4) "after them, Abraham with all his descendants until Moses, under whom your nation appeared unrighteous and ungrateful to God, making a calf in the… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 4*

4 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 4, page 3** "they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifices to the idol, and were rejoicing in the works of their own hands… [continues online] **read ›**

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Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *Stromata* 2.15 (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 4** “instance of the same is the making of the calf by the people before Aaron… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Instructor* 1.10 (1885 English; on point 4) “what the Hebrews suffered when they worshipped the golden calf, and what they suffered when they committed fornication, and the like… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 7–8*

7 *Against Marcion* 26 (1885 English; on point 2) “32:10 Accordingly, you maintain that Moses is better than his God, as the deprecator, nay the averter, of His anger… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *An Answer to the Jews* 1 (on point 4) “the people said to Aaron, "Make us gods to go before us… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · source 9*

9 *Letter to Gregory* 1 (on point 4) returned in order to bring division into the people of God, and to make them say to the golden calf, "These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 10–12*

10 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “For Moses also besought for the sins of the people… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 4) “being able to bear the delays of Moses conferring with God, they dared to ask for profane gods, that they might call the head of an ox and an earthen… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 7, page 4** “in Exodus prays for the people, and does not obtain his prayer, saying: I pray, O Lord, this people has sinned a great sin… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · source 13*

13 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 4) “the mountain, and whose voice He had allowed them to hear; this God they denied. And they said to Aaron, "Make us gods who shall go before us." And they… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 14*

14 *Writings* (1885 English; on point 3) “look upon the law which Moses in wrath dashed to pieces… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 15*

15 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quotes 1, 2, page 2** You understand, beloved, you understand well the Sacred Scriptures, and you have looked very earnestly into the oracles of God. Call then these things to your remembrance. When Moses went… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *98 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

16 **Exodus 4:13** But Moses said, “I beg you, Lord, appoint another able person whom you will send.” **read ›**

17 **Exodus 4:14** Then the Lord, angered with wrath against Moses, said, “Look, is not Aaron the Levite your brother? I know that he will surely speak for you. And behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you he will rejoice within himself. **read ›**

18 **Exodus 8:26** But Moses said, “It cannot be done this way; for we shall sacrifice to the Lord our God the abominations of the Egyptians. For if we sacrifice the abominations of the Egyptians before their eyes, we shall be stoned. (Septuagint Exodus 8:22 (Exodus 8:26 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

19 **Exodus 8:30** So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. (Septuagint Exodus 8:26 (Exodus 8:30 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

20 **Exodus 10:18** So Moses went out from Pharaoh and prayed to God. **read ›**

21 **Exodus 11:9** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Pharaoh will not listen to you, so that I may greatly multiply my signs and wonders in the land of Egypt.” **read ›**

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22 **Exodus 17:4** Then Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “What shall I do with this people? A little longer, and they will stone me.” **read ›**

23 **Exodus 24:13** So Moses and Jesus, who attended him, arose and went up to the mountain of God. **read ›**

24 **Exodus 24:18** And Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up to the mountain; and he was there on the mountain forty days and forty nights. **read ›**

25 **Exodus 29:10** You shall bring the calf to the doors of the tabernacle of witness, and Aaron and his sons shall lay their hands on the head of the calf before the Lord, by the doors of the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

26 **Exodus 32:1** When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered against Aaron and said to him, “Arise, make us gods who shall go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt—we do not know what has become of him.” **read ›**

27 **Exodus 32:2** Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold earrings that are in the ears of your wives and daughters, and bring them to me.” **read ›**

28 **Exodus 32:3** So all the people took off the gold earrings that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. **read ›**

29 **Exodus 32:4** He received them from their hands and formed them with an engraving tool, and he made them into a molten calf. And he said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” **read ›**

30 **Exodus 32:5** When Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation, saying, “Tomorrow is a feast of the Lord.” **read ›**

31 **Exodus 32:8** They have quickly turned aside from the way that you commanded them. They have made themselves a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.’ **read ›**

32 **Exodus 32:11** But Moses prayed before the Lord God and said, “Why, O Lord, are you angered with wrath against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great strength and with your high arm? **read ›**

33 **Exodus 32:12** Lest the Egyptians say, ‘With evil intent he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the earth.’ Cease from the wrath of your anger, and be merciful concerning the wickedness of your people, **read ›**

34 **Exodus 32:19** When he came near the camp, he saw the calf and the dances. And Moses, wrathful with anger, threw the two tablets out of his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. **read ›**

35 **Exodus 32:21** Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you, that you have brought a great sin upon them?” **read ›**

36 **Exodus 32:22** Aaron said to Moses, “Do not be angry, my lord, for you know the rashness of this people. **read ›**

37 **Exodus 32:24** So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold ornaments, take them off.’ They gave them to me, and I threw them into the fire, and out came this calf.” **read ›**

38 **Exodus 32:25** When Moses saw that the people had been scattered—for Aaron had scattered them, to the gloating of their adversaries— **read ›**

39 **Exodus 32:30** On the next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to God, so that I may make atonement for your sin.” **read ›**

40 **Exodus 32:31** So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “I beg you, O Lord, this people has sinned a great sin; they have made themselves gods of gold. **read ›**

41 **Exodus 32:35** And the Lord struck the people because of the making of the calf that Aaron made. **read ›**

42 **Exodus 34:8** Moses made haste, bowed down to the ground, and worshiped. **read ›**

43 **Leviticus 8:14** Moses brought near the calf for the sin offering, and Aaron and his sons laid their hands on the head of the calf of the sin offering. **read ›**

44 **Leviticus 9:2** and Moses said to Aaron, “Take for yourself a young calf from the herd for a sin offering, and a ram for a whole burnt offering, both unblemished, and offer them before the Lord. **read ›**

45 **Leviticus 9:8** So Aaron went near to the altar and slaughtered the young calf of his sin offering. **read ›**

46 **Leviticus 10:3** Then Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying, ‘Among those who draw near to me I will be sanctified, and in all the congregation I will be glorified.’” And Aaron was stricken to the heart. **read ›**

47 **Leviticus 16:11** Aaron shall bring the calf for his own sin offering, and make atonement for himself and for his house, and he shall kill the calf for his sin offering. **read ›**

48 **Numbers 8:20** And Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel did to the Levites as the Lord had commanded Moses concerning the Levites; so the children of Israel did to them. **read ›**

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49 **Numbers 8:24** “This is what concerns the Levites: from twenty-five years old and upward they shall go in to work in the tabernacle of witness; **read ›**

50 **Numbers 11:2** The people cried out to Moses; and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down. **read ›**

51 **Numbers 11:10** Moses heard them weeping by their clans, each one at his own door; and the Lord’s anger burned with wrath exceedingly, and in Moses’ eyes it was evil. **read ›**

52 **Numbers 11:29** But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? If only all the Lord’s people were prophets, when the Lord puts his Spirit upon them!” **read ›**

53 **Numbers 12:3** Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the people who were on the earth. **read ›**

54 **Numbers 12:11** And Aaron said to Moses, “I beg you, my lord, do not lay sin upon us, for we acted in ignorance when we sinned. **read ›**

55 **Numbers 12:13** So Moses cried out to the Lord, saying, “O God, I beg you, heal her.” **read ›**

56 **Numbers 14:5** Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the congregation of the children of Israel. **read ›**

57 **Numbers 16:2** and they rose up before Moses, with two hundred and fifty men of the children of Israel, chiefs of the congregation, chosen for the council, and famous men. **read ›**

58 **Numbers 16:11** So then, you and all your congregation are gathered together against God. And Aaron, who is he, that you grumble against him?” **read ›**

59 **Numbers 16:15** Then Moses was very angry, and he said to the Lord, “Do not regard their sacrifice. I have not taken anything desirable from any one of them, nor have I harmed any one of them.” **read ›**

60 **Numbers 17:11** And Moses and Aaron did as the Lord had commanded Moses; so they did. (Septuagint Numbers 17:26 (Numbers 17:11 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

61 **Numbers 17:12** Then the children of Israel spoke to Moses, saying, “Behold, we are consumed, we are lost, we are wasted away! (Septuagint Numbers 17:27 (Numbers 17:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

62 **Numbers 18:23** But the Levite himself shall minister in the service of the tabernacle of witness, and they shall bear their sins; it is a perpetual ordinance throughout their generations; and among the children of Israel they shall not inherit an inheritance. **read ›**

63 **Numbers 20:24** “Let Aaron be added to his people; for you shall certainly not enter the land that I have given to the children of Israel, because you provoked me at the Water of Reviling. **read ›**

64 **Numbers 21:7** Then the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against you. Pray, then, to the Lord, and let him take the serpent away from us.” **read ›**

65 **Numbers 25:4** And the Lord said to Moses, “Take all the chiefs of the people and make a public example of them to the Lord before the sun, and the anger of the wrath of the Lord shall turn away from Israel.” **read ›**

66 **Numbers 25:13** and it shall be to him and to his seed after him an everlasting covenant of priesthood, because he was zealous for his God and made atonement for the children of Israel.’” **read ›**

67 **Numbers 27:4** And Moses brought their case before the Lord. **read ›**

68 **Numbers 31:14** And Moses was angry with the overseers of the forces, the commanders of thousands and the commanders of hundreds, who came from the battle. **read ›**

69 **Numbers 31:54** And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold from the commanders of thousands and from the commanders of hundreds, and brought it into the tabernacle of witness as a memorial for the children of Israel before the Lord. **read ›**

70 **Deuteronomy 7:12** And when you hear these ordinances and keep them and do them, the Lord your God will keep for you the covenant and the mercy that he swore to your fathers. **read ›**

71 **Deuteronomy 9:16** And when I saw that you had sinned before the Lord your God and had made yourselves a molten image and had turned aside from the way that the Lord commanded you to do, **read ›**

72 **Deuteronomy 9:20** And he was angry with Aaron, to utterly destroy him; and I prayed for Aaron also at that time. **read ›**

73 **Deuteronomy 10:8** At that time the Lord set apart the tribe of Levi to carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, to stand before the Lord, to minister, and to bless in his name, to this day. **read ›**

74 **Deuteronomy 10:9** Therefore the Levites have no portion or inheritance among their brothers; the Lord himself is Levi’s inheritance, as he said to him. **read ›**

75 **Deuteronomy 12:19** Be careful that you do not forsake the Levite all the time that you live on the earth. **read ›**

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76 **Deuteronomy 14:29** And the Levite shall come, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the resident foreigner, the orphan, and the widow who are within your cities, and they shall eat and be satisfied, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the works that you do. **read ›**

77 **Deuteronomy 17:9** then you shall arise and go up to the place that the Lord your God chooses, and you shall come to the priests, the Levites, and to the judge who is in office in those days; and they shall search it out and declare to you the judgment. **read ›**

78 **Deuteronomy 17:11** You shall do according to the law and according to the judgment that they tell you; you shall not turn aside from the word that they declare to you, to the right or to the left. **read ›**

79 **Deuteronomy 18:1** The priests, the Levites—the whole tribe of Levi—shall have no portion or inheritance with Israel. The burnt offerings of the Lord are their inheritance; they shall eat them. **read ›**

80 **Deuteronomy 18:7** he shall minister to the name of the Lord his God, like all his brothers the Levites who stand there before the Lord your God. **read ›**

81 **Deuteronomy 21:5** Then the priests, the Levites, shall come forward, for the Lord God has chosen them to stand before him and to bless in his name, and by their word every dispute and every assault shall be settled. **read ›**

82 **Deuteronomy 27:14** And the Levites shall answer and say to all Israel with a loud voice: **read ›**

83 **Deuteronomy 31:25** he commanded the Levites who carry the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying: **read ›**

84 **Judges 17:11** So the Levite went and began to stay with the man, and the young man became like one of his sons to him. **read ›**

85 **1 Kings 12:28** So the king took counsel, and he went and made two golden young cows, and he said to the people, “You have gone up to Jerusalem long enough. Behold your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.” **read ›**

86 **1 Kings 15:30** for the sins of Jeroboam, who made Israel sin, and for his provocation by which he provoked the Lord God of Israel. **read ›**

87 **1 Kings 21:26** And he became very abominable, going after the abominations, according to all that the Amorite did, whom the Lord utterly destroyed from before the children of Israel. (Septuagint 3 Kingdoms 20:26 (1 Kings 21:26 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

88 **2 Kings 23:3** The king stood by the pillar and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord and to keep his commandments, his testimonies, and his ordinances with all the heart and with all the soul, to establish the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood in the covenant. **read ›**

89 **1 Chronicles 16:4** He appointed some of the Levites before the ark of the covenant of the Lord to minister, sounding aloud, to give thanks and to praise the Lord God of Israel: **read ›**

90 **2 Chronicles 11:14** For the Levites left the tents of their possession and went to Judah, to Jerusalem, because Jeroboam and his sons had cast them out from ministering to the Lord; **read ›**

91 **2 Chronicles 13:8** And now you say that you will stand against the kingdom of the Lord in the hand of the sons of David; and you are a great multitude, and with you are the golden calves that Jeroboam made you for gods. **read ›**

92 **2 Chronicles 19:8** In Jerusalem also Jehoshaphat appointed some of the priests and the Levites and the heads of families of Israel for the judgment of the Lord and to judge those who dwell in Jerusalem. **read ›**

93 **2 Chronicles 19:10** Whatever case comes to you from your brothers who dwell in their cities, between blood and blood, between statute and commandment, ordinances and judgments, you shall instruct them, and they shall not sin against the Lord, and anger shall not come upon you and upon your brothers. Thus you shall do, and you shall not sin. **read ›**

94 **Psalms 78:38** But he is compassionate, and he will be merciful toward their sins, and will not destroy; and many times he will turn away his wrath, and will not kindle all his anger. (Septuagint Psalm 77:38 (Psalm 78:38 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

95 **Psalms 106:23** And he said he would utterly destroy them, had not Moses his chosen one stood before him in the plague, to turn him from the wrath of his anger, so that he would not utterly destroy them. (Septuagint Psalm 105:23 (Psalm 106:23 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

96 **Ecclesiastes 2:10** And whatever my eyes asked for, I did not keep from them; I did not hold back my heart from any of my gladness, for my heart was glad in all my labor; and this was my portion from all my labor. **read ›**

97 **Song of Solomon 4:16** Awake, O north wind, and come, O south wind; blow through my garden, and let my spices flow out. **read ›**

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98 **Isaiah 2:17** And every man shall be brought low, and the arrogance of men shall fall, and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. **read ›**

99 **Isaiah 7:12** And Ahaz said, “I will by no means ask, nor will I test the Lord at all.” **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:11** Even if there is one stiff-necked man, it will be a marvel if he goes unpunished; for mercy and anger come from him; he is mighty in atonements, and pours out anger. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 17:12** He established an everlasting covenant with them, and showed them his judgments. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:2** of the law of the Most High and of the covenant, and of judgment, to justify the ungodly; **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:1** And he brought out of him a man of mercy, who found favor in the eyes of all flesh, beloved by God and men, Moses, whose memorial is in blessings. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:6** He exalted Aaron, a holy man like him, his brother, from the tribe of Levi. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 45:23** And Phinehas the son of Eleazar is third in glory, in that he was zealous in the fear of the Lord and stood firm when the people turned away, in the goodness of his soul’s readiness, and he made atonement for Israel. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 46:7** And in the days of Moses he showed mercy, he and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, in standing against the enemy, in holding back the people from sin, and in quieting wicked grumbling. **read ›**

107 **1 Maccabees 1:43** And many from Israel took pleasure in his worship; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the Sabbath. **read ›**

108 **2 Maccabees 2:10** Just as Moses prayed to the Lord, and fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, so also Solomon prayed, and the fire came down and consumed the whole burnt offerings. **read ›**

109 **3 Maccabees 4:16** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

110 **4 Maccabees 2:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

111 **4 Maccabees 7:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **Acts 7:40** saying to Aaron, ‘Make us gods who shall go before us; for this Moses who brought us out of the land of Egypt—we do not know what has become of him.’ **read ›**

113 **Hebrews 3:5** Moses indeed was faithful in all his house as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were afterward to be spoken, **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *28 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Exodus 32:32

Proverbs 8:4

Isaiah 5:21 · 42:6 · 49:6

Jeremiah 2:13

Daniel 7:7 · 7:24

Matthew 11:3 · 19:11 · 20:16 · 22:13 · 25:30

Luke 4:18 · 7:19 · 10:27 · 15:7

John 15:11

Acts 7:38 · 7:39

Romans 2:11 · 9:10

1 Corinthians 10:7

2 Corinthians 3:3

Galatians 3:16

Philippians 3:5

1 Thessalonians 1:9

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Hebrews 10:25

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “What did early Christians learn from Moses and the golden calf (Exodus 32:1–35)?” on April 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

Library only. This study was written only from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed above, with a link to read it.

How it was made. Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith’s library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.

How to cite this study. The Historic Faith, “What did early Christians learn from Moses and the golden calf (Exodus 32:1–35)?” Early Church Questions, published November 9, 2026, https://thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/what-did-early-christians-learn-from-moses-and-the-golden-calf. To cite one quotation, add its number and source, for example “quote 1, source 15.”

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THE END OF THIS STUDY