THE QUESTION

Why did Israel make the golden calf, and how did Moses respond (Exodus 32:1–24)?

Asked by a THF member on April 12, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 22 early Christian passages and 136 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/why-did-israel-make-the-golden-calf-and-how-did-moses-respond

The short answer *From the text: says what the passages say*

The early writers say Israel made the golden calf because the people would not wait while Moses was with God, and because they did not truly believe the wonders they had seen. Aaron gave in to their pressure. Moses broke the tablets over the broken covenant, yet he pleaded for the people, even offering himself.

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POINT 1 OF 6

The people would not wait for Moses

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

Tertullian points to impatience. Moses was away with God for a good reason, but the people could not bear his absence and made gods for themselves instead of waiting.

1 “Moses was apart with God on the mountain. Meanwhile the people, unable to bear his absence, though it was so necessary, sought to make gods for themselves, gods which, for his own part, he would prefer to destroy.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Scorpiace* 3 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Their sin grew out of unbelief

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

Origen says God had shown himself openly, even when the Ten Commandments were given, yet the people did not truly believe. Justin makes the same point: they made the calf while eating manna and seeing God's wonders every day.

2 “Yet even then, these things were received with unbelief by those who saw them. For if they had believed what they saw and heard, they would not have made the calf, nor changed their own glory into the likeness of a grass-eating calf.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *Against Celsus* 74 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 13, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

3 “Yet, while you were in the desert eating manna and witnessing all the wondrous acts God did for you, you made and worshiped the golden calf.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *Dialogue with Trypho* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 6

In their hearts they went back to Egypt

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

Irenaeus says that in making the calf the people turned back to Egypt in their minds, choosing slavery over freedom. Tertullian sees the calf itself as a rebuke, since their heart was still with their old treasure in Egypt.

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.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 5, page 5** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

5 “The wise fire made for them the molten image of a calf, rebuking them because their heart was where their treasure also was, namely in Egypt, which, among its other animals, also clothed a certain ox with sacredness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Scorpiace* 3 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

Aaron gave in under pressure

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

Tertullian describes Aaron as pressed by the crowd. Instead of resisting, he asked for the women's earrings and had them thrown into the fire.

6 “Aaron is pressed by them, and commands that the earrings of their women be brought together, so that they may be thrown into the fire.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Scorpiace* 3 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 7, page 6** Read it in the library ›
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POINT 5 OF 6

Moses broke the tablets over a broken covenant

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

Barnabas tells how Moses came down with the tablets of the covenant. When he saw the idols, he threw them down and they broke. Barnabas takes this as a sign that the people had shown themselves unworthy of the covenant.

7 “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) **Source 1, page 5** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 6

Moses pleaded for them at his own cost

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

Clement of Rome praises Moses' love. Moses asked God to forgive the people or else to blot him out with them. Cyprian quotes the same prayer, but he also notes that God answered that he would blot out those who had sinned.

8 “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 22, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

9 “He says, “I pray, O Lord, this people has committed a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. And now, if You forgive their sin, forgive it; but if not, blot me out of the book You have written.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD) **Source 16, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- These passages say little about the thunder, smoke and trumpet at Sinai in Exodus 20.
- They do not explain Aaron's excuse in Exodus 32:22–24 or say how fully he was to blame.
- 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 22 early Christian passages and 136 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–22, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 23–122, in Bible order), then 36 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 *22 passages from 12 writers*

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

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* **Quote 7, page 4** “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 5) “your sins and saying, “The covenant is theirs and ours.” But they ultimately lost it, even after Moses had received it. For the Scripture says, “And Moses was fasting on… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *Dialogue with Trypho* (on point 2) “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 ›**

4 *Dialogue with Trypho* **Quote 3, page 2** “and drinking, since you were likely to drift away from His knowledge, as Moses also states: ‘The people ate and drank, and then indulged in revelry.’ And again: ‘Jacob ate… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 5*

5 *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 ›**

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

6 *Stromata* 2.15 (1885 English; on point 4) “instance of the same is the making of the calf by the people before Aaron… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 7–10*

7 *Scorpiace* 3 (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 5, 6, pages 2, 3** "was apart with God on the mountain, when the people, not brooking his absence, which was so needful, seek to make gods for themselves, which, for his own part, he… [continues online] **read ›**

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

9 *Against Marcion* 26 (1885 English; on point 6) "32:10 Accordingly, you maintain that Moses is better than his God, as the deprecator, nay the averter, of His anger… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *On Patience* 5 (on point 1) "heavenly arm by which he had been drawn out of his Egyptian affliction, he demanded from Aaron gods to lead him, and poured out his gold for an idol? They… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 11*

11 *Against the Jews* 1 (1885 English) "it on account of that ancient fabrication of the calf… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 12–14*

12 *Commentary on John* 10 the people. God says they are His own people when they do not sin. But in the section about the calf He rejects them and calls them the people of… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Against Celsus* 74 **Quote 2, page 2** "earlier remarks, "O most high and heavenly one! What God, on appearing to men, is received with unbelief?" we must answer him that, according to the accounts in the law… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Celsus* 4 (1885 English; on point 5) "Moses having again hewn tables of stone, God wrote the commandments a second time, and gave them to him… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 15–17*

15 *Treatises* (on point 1) "of patience may shine out even more clearly, let us also consider, on the other hand, what harm impatience can cause. For just as patience is the benefit of Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Treatises* (1885 English) **Quote 9, 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 ›**

17 *Treatises* (1885 English; on point 6) "For Moses also besought for the sins of the people… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 18–19*

18 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 2) "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 ›**

19 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) "additional rules introduced and given in the wilderness to the Israelites after the making of the calf. For the law contains those commandments that were spoken by the Lord God… [continues online] **read ›**

Commodianus, *c. 250–300 AD · source 20*

20 *Writings* (1885 English; on point 5) "look upon the law which Moses in wrath dashed to pieces… [continues online] **read ›**

Lactantius, *c. 290–320 AD · source 21*

21 *Divine Institutes* 10 (1885 English; on point 3) "when Moses, their leader, had ascended into the mountain, and there tarried forty days, they made the head of an ox in gold, which they call Apis, that it might… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *source 22*

22 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* **Quote 8, page 4** 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 ›**

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THE BIBLE *100 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

23 **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 ›**

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

25 **Exodus 9:10** So he took the soot of the furnace before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered it toward heaven; and it became sores, blisters breaking out on people and on four-footed beasts. **read ›**

26 **Exodus 9:23** So Moses stretched out his hand toward heaven, and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and fire ran along on the ground; and the Lord rained hail on all the land of Egypt. **read ›**

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

28 **Exodus 19:13** No hand shall touch it; for such a one shall be stoned with stones or shot through with an arrow. Whether beast or man, he shall not live. When the voices and the trumpets and the cloud depart from the mountain, they shall go up on the mountain.’” **read ›**

29 **Exodus 19:16** On the third day, as morning came, there were voices and flashes of lightning and a dark cloud on Mount Sinai; the voice of the trumpet rang out loudly, and all the people in the camp trembled. **read ›**

30 **Exodus 19:18** Mount Sinai was all in smoke, because God had come down upon it in fire; and the smoke went up like the smoke of a furnace, and all the people were greatly amazed. **read ›**

31 **Exodus 19:19** The voices of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Moses spoke, and God answered him with a voice. **read ›**

32 **Exodus 20:18** All the people saw the voice, and the torches, and the voice of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and all the people were afraid and stood far off. **read ›**

33 **Exodus 23:24** You shall not worship their gods, nor ever serve them; you shall not do according to their works; but you shall surely overthrow them and shatter their pillars to pieces. **read ›**

34 **Exodus 24:4** And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord. Then Moses rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve stones for the twelve tribes of Israel. **read ›**

35 **Exodus 24:8** And Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold, the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you concerning all these words.” **read ›**

36 **Exodus 24:16** And the glory of God came down upon Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days; and on the seventh day the Lord called Moses out of the midst of the cloud. **read ›**

37 **Exodus 24:17** And the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a blazing fire on the top of the mountain before the children of Israel. **read ›**

38 **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 ›**

39 **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 ›**

40 **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 ›**

41 **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 ›**

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

43 **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 ›**

44 **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 ›**

45 **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 ›**

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46 **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 ›**

47 **Exodus 32:15** Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the testimony were in his hands, tablets of stone written on both their sides; they were written on the one side and on the other. **read ›**

48 **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 ›**

49 **Exodus 32:20** He took the calf they had made and burned it with fire, ground it fine, scattered it under the water, and made the children of Israel drink it. **read ›**

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

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

52 **Exodus 32:23** For they said to me, ‘Make us gods who shall go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us out of Egypt—we do not know what has become of him.’ **read ›**

53 **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 ›**

54 **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 ›**

55 **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 ›**

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

57 **Exodus 34:1** The Lord said to Moses, “Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first ones, and come up to me on the mountain; and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. **read ›**

58 **Exodus 34:4** So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first ones; and rising early, Moses went up on Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded him; and Moses took the two tablets of stone. **read ›**

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

60 **Exodus 34:13** You shall pull down their altars, break their pillars in pieces, and cut down their groves; and the carved images of their gods you shall burn with fire. **read ›**

61 **Exodus 34:28** Moses was there before the Lord forty days and forty nights; he did not eat bread, and he did not drink water. And he wrote on the tablets these words of the covenant, the ten words. **read ›**

62 **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 ›**

63 **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 ›**

64 **Leviticus 9:7** Then Moses said to Aaron, “Go near to the altar, and offer your sin offering and your whole burnt offering, and make atonement for yourself and for your house; and offer the gifts of the people, and make atonement for them, just as the Lord commanded Moses.” **read ›**

65 **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 ›**

66 **Leviticus 10:16** Moses searched diligently for the male goat of the sin offering, but it had been burned up. And Moses was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron who were left, saying, **read ›**

67 **Leviticus 19:4** You shall not follow idols, and you shall not make molten gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God. **read ›**

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

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

70 **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 ›**

71 **Numbers 16:46** Then Moses said to Aaron, “Take the censer and put fire on it from the altar, and lay incense on it, and carry it quickly into the camp and make atonement for them; for wrath has gone out from the presence of the Lord; it has begun to destroy the people.” (Septuagint Numbers 17:11 (Numbers 16:46 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

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72 **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 ›**

73 **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 ›**

74 **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 ›**

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

76 **Deuteronomy 4:11** So you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain was burning with fire up to heaven: darkness, thick darkness, and storm. **read ›**

77 **Deuteronomy 4:23** Be careful, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord our God, which he made with you, and act lawlessly and make for yourselves a carved likeness of any of the things that the Lord your God has commanded you. **read ›**

78 **Deuteronomy 4:24** For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God. **read ›**

79 **Deuteronomy 5:7** You shall have no other gods before my face. **read ›**

80 **Deuteronomy 7:25** You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire. You shall not covet silver, nor shall you take gold from them for yourself, lest you stumble because of it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. **read ›**

81 **Deuteronomy 9:12** And the Lord said to me, “Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have acted lawlessly; they have quickly turned aside from the way that you commanded them; they have made themselves a molten image.” **read ›**

82 **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 ›**

83 **Deuteronomy 9:17** I took hold of the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands, and I broke them before you. **read ›**

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

85 **Deuteronomy 9:21** And I took your sin that you had made, the calf, and burned it in fire, and I crushed it, grinding it thoroughly until it became fine, and it became like dust; and I threw the dust into the brook that came down from the mountain. **read ›**

86 **Deuteronomy 11:16** be careful lest your heart be puffed up, and you transgress and serve other gods and worship them, **read ›**

87 **Deuteronomy 12:3** You shall tear down their altars, smash their pillars, cut down their groves, and burn the carved images of their gods with fire, and you shall destroy their name from that place. **read ›**

88 **Deuteronomy 13:3** you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or of that one who dreams that dream; for the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Septuagint Deuteronomy 13:4 (Deuteronomy 13:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

89 **Joshua 23:16** when you transgress the covenant of the Lord our God, which he commanded us, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them.” **read ›**

90 **Judges 5:5** The mountains were shaken before the face of the Lord Eloi, this Sinai, before the face of the Lord God of Israel. **read ›**

91 **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 ›**

92 **2 Kings 17:7** This came about because the children of Israel sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and they feared other gods, **read ›**

93 **2 Kings 17:16** They forsook the commandments of the Lord their God and made themselves a molten image, two young cows; and they made groves, and they worshiped all the host of heaven and served Baal. **read ›**

94 **2 Kings 18:4** He removed the high places, broke the pillars in pieces, and utterly destroyed the groves, and the bronze serpent that Moses had made, because until those days the children of Israel were burning incense to it; and he called the serpent Nehushtan. **read ›**

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95 **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 ›**

96 **2 Chronicles 13:12** And behold, with us at our head are the Lord and his priests, and the signal trumpets to sound the alarm over us. Children of Israel, do not fight against the Lord God of our fathers, for you shall not prosper." **read ›**

97 **Nehemiah 9:18** Moreover, they even made for themselves a molten calf and said, 'These are the gods who brought us up out of Egypt,' and they committed great provocations. (Septuagint 2 Esdras 19:18 (Nehemiah 9:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

98 **Psalms 77:18** The voice of your thunder was in the wheel; your lightnings shone on the world; the earth was shaken and trembled. (Septuagint Psalm 76:19 (Psalm 77:18 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

99 **Psalms 106:19** And they made a calf in Horeb, and worshiped the carved image; (Septuagint Psalm 105:19 (Psalm 106:19 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

100 **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 ›**

101 **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 ›**

102 **Isaiah 29:6** from the Lord of hosts; for there will be a visitation with thunder and earthquake and a great noise, a rushing storm and a devouring flame of fire. **read ›**

103 **Jeremiah 49:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

104 **Habakkuk 2:1** I will stand at my watch and go up upon the rock, and keep watch to see what he will say in me, and what I shall answer to my rebuke. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Solomon 18:21** For a blameless man hastened to fight on their behalf; bringing the weapon of his own ministry, prayer and the atonement of incense, he withstood the wrath and put an end to the disaster, showing that he was your servant. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 2:5** For gold is tested in the fire, and acceptable men in the furnace of humiliation. **read ›**

107 **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 ›**

108 **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 ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 46:17** And the Lord thundered from heaven, and with a great noise he made his voice heard. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 48:7** you heard rebuke at Sinai, and judgments of vengeance at Horeb; **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 48:10** you were written down for rebukes at the appointed times, to calm anger before wrath, to turn the heart of a father to his son, and to restore the tribes of Jacob. **read ›**

112 **Baruch 1:19** from the day when the Lord brought our fathers out of the land of Egypt until this day we have been disobedient to the Lord our God, and we have been careless in not listening to his voice. **read ›**

113 **4 Maccabees 2:17** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **1 Enoch 1:4** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **Luke 2:17** When they saw him, they made widely known what had been told them about this child. **read ›**

116 **Luke 9:14** For there were about five thousand men. He said to his disciples, "Have them recline in groups of fifty each." **read ›**

117 **Acts 2:21** And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. **read ›**

118 **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 ›**

119 **Acts 7:41** They made a calf in those days, and brought a sacrifice to the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their hands. **read ›**

120 **Romans 7:9** I was alive apart from the law once, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. **read ›**

121 **1 Corinthians 1:19** For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and set aside the understanding of the intelligent. **read ›**

122 **Hebrews 12:21** So fearful was the appearance that Moses said, "I am terrified and trembling." **read ›**

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ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *36 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.

Genesis 9:3
Exodus 32:7 · 32:32
Numbers 25:1
Judges 2:8 · 2:12 · 2:20
Isaiah 5:21 · 42:6 · 49:6
Jeremiah 2:13
Daniel 7:7 · 7:24
Matthew 11:28 · 19:11 · 20:16
Luke 4:18 · 10:27 · 15:7
John 15:11
Acts 7:38 · 7:39 · 15:10
Romans 2:11 · 9:10
1 Corinthians 5:7 · 7:3 · 10:4 · 10:7
2 Corinthians 3:3
Galatians 3:16
Philippians 3:5
1 Thessalonians 1:9
Hebrews 3:5 · 10:25
1 Peter 3:7

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

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Why did Israel make the golden calf, and how did Moses respond (Exodus 32:1–24)?” on April 12, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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