



## [Exodus 32:7-8](#)

(7) And the LORD said to Moses, "Go, get down! For your people whom you brought out of the land of Egypt have corrupted *themselves*. (8) They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them. They have made themselves a molded calf, and worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, "This *is* your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"

*New King James Version*

Just mere months after [God](#) liberated the slave-nation Israel from centuries of bondage to Egypt through awesome and terrifying displays of power, capping their redemption by dividing the Red Sea and drowning their captors in its waters, they reconfigured the nature of Almighty God into the form of a bull! One has to ask, what were they thinking as they cried, "This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!"?

Is this not similar to what one may discover on [the world](#) scene today? People have created gods in their own image. They interpret God according to their own cultural biases, as well as what family, educational, and business associations have predisposed them to believe. They then attribute His favor to their political parties, athletic teams, motivations, and prejudices. All this is done with precious little careful study into, meditation upon, and especially wholeheartedly believing of His inspired revelation of Himself in the Bible.

At the worship service held in the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., a few days following the attack of September 11, clergy from Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, and Muslim faiths participated. Which clergyman represented God? Which did God hear? Can they all be His representatives,

even though they all believe differently? Do these differences not matter to Him? They must matter to those men; otherwise, they would not advocate their brand of [faith](#). Certainly, God hears just as surely as He sees what is going on. He makes very clear that no one comes to Him except through [Jesus Christ](#), eliminating two of those faiths immediately.

He also makes clear that those who approach Him with favor must be subject to His government. In other words, they must keep His commandments. The remaining two faiths keep none of His Sabbaths, and in fact, they tell people they do not have to keep the commandments—in other words, they need not be subject to His government in daily life—because His law is "done away."

Might God, as an act of mercy, nonetheless hear and respond by delivering us from future destructions planned for us? He might. It has happened before, for instance, when God mercifully forgave Nineveh after it repented at the preaching of Jonah, and He delivered Israel a number of times. Yet when that happened, it was accompanied by a wholehearted [repentance](#) that God was willing to accept. Have we as a nation repented? How deep must the repentance be? How many must repent before it tips the balance of God's judgment so that He moves in our behalf? In [Genesis 18:32](#), God tells Abraham He will spare Sodom if He finds ten righteous people in it. Is God using the same standard of measurement for America today?

— John W. Ritenbaugh

**To learn more, see:**  
[Is God to Blame?](#)

**Related Topics:**

[Idol](#)

[Idolatrous Religious Influence](#)

[Idolatry](#)

[Nineveh](#)

[Repentance](#)

[Sabbath](#)

[Sabbath Breaking](#)

[Sodom and Gomorrah](#)

[The First Commandment](#)

[The Second Commandment](#)