



## Exodus 32:1-8

(1) When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him." (2) Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." (3) So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. (4) He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt." (5) When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD." (6) So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry. (7) Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. (8) They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

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They did this in their ignorance and their impatience to get things moving. Even though most of the people wanted it, and a renowned religious figure proclaimed it "a feast to the LORD," it did not make it so. [God](#) was definitely not positively impressed, nor was [Moses](#). In one of the gravest acts of presumption shown in God's Word, and one of the largest in terms of the number involved, they took it on themselves to add this to the worship of God. What they did was very seriously disrespectful to God; they attempted to configure the nature of God according to their own desires.

[Proverbs 14:12](#) says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death." People say they keep [Christmas](#) and [Easter](#) to worship Christ, but they are also defining the nature of God according to their own ideas. Just as surely as the

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ancient Israelites blended paganism with what God truly revealed, so people do today. This is the basic principle of acts of presumption, and each of us has done this, not once, but sadly, repeatedly, even though we may know better.

[Jesus](#) says in [John 4:24](#), "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and [truth](#)," meaning we must worship to the fullest of God's intent as revealed in His Word, with every act guided and determined by His revealed truth. Yet, how many corners do we cut when we feel it serves us better at the time?

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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