

**BROKEN LAWS**  
**Exodus 24:1-32:19**

The Lord called Moses to come up into the mountain. He told him to bring Aaron, Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu, as well as the seventy elders of Israel. These men were to worship the Lord at a distance, but Moses was to come up close. Moses told the people all that the Lord commanded and they said, "All that the Lord says we will do." Moses made a covenant between the Lord and his people by offering sacrifice to the Lord and sprinkling some of the blood from the sacrifice over the people.

Then the men that God had named went up into the mountain. They saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet a paved work of sapphire stone like the heaven in its clearness. The Lord gave them a feast up on the mountain. They ate and drank in his presence, but they did not die.

The Lord called Moses to come up higher, so he and his servant Joshua went up higher into the mountain. There God gave Moses the tablets with the commands that he had already told the people written on them. Moses had told the leaders to wait for him, and that Aaron and Hur would take care of any problems that might arise in the camp.

As Moses went up into the mountain a cloud covered it, and the glory of the Lord stayed on mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mount, then the Lord called to Moses. The sight of the glory on the mountain looked like a devouring fire to the children of Israel who watch from down below.

Moses stayed up on that mountain for forty days and forty nights. While he was there the Lord told him the instructions for the tabernacle that was to be built as a house of worship for the Lord. He gave the exact details for every part of the tabernacle, including the ark of the covenant and the mercy seat. The Lord told Moses how the people should worship him and how the priests were to be dressed. The Lord even told Moses the name of the main builder. He told Moses how he, the Lord, had filled Bezaleel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and understanding, and knowledge, in all manner of workmanship, so that he could devise cunning works in gold, and in silver, and in brass, in the cutting of stones.

The Lord also told Moses to tell the children of Israel that they were to keep the sabbath for worship and rest. It was to be a sign between the Lord and the children of Israel forever, because the Lord had created the heaven and the earth in six days and he had rested and been refreshed on the seventh day. Once again the Lord reminds the people and us that he created everything in six twenty-four hour days. The only way to think that creation was done over millions of years is to deliberately refuse to believe what God says in his word.

When the people saw that Moses delayed and did not come back down from the mountain, they gathered together and went to Aaron. They said, "Make us gods to guide us. As for Moses, we don't know what has happened to him."

Aaron got right up and did what the people wanted. He told them to bring any gold jewelry that they had to him. He melted all the gold together and formed a golden calf from the gold. Aaron told the people, "Here is your god, Israel, which brought you out of Egypt." Then Aaron built an altar before the calf and made a proclamation that the people should hold a feast to the Lord.

Early the next morning the people got up and held a feast to their false god. Along with their worship they began to do the perverse things that always go along with false worship.

The Lord told Moses, "Go down to your people that you brought out of Egypt. They have corrupted themselves. They have quickly turned out of the way that I commanded them, and they have made a molten calf. They worship it and sacrifice to it saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, which brought you out of the land of Egypt.'

The Lord said, "I have seen these people, and they are stiff-necked. (That means, they are like a horse that will not respond to the reins.) The Lord said, "Let my anger grow hot against them, and I will consume them. I will make of you a great nation."

But Moses beseeched the Lord that he would have mercy on the people and not destroy them.

It was not the Lord's desire to destroy the people, and he wanted Moses to pray for the people even though they had acted very wickedly.

When Moses got down into the camp and saw the wicked way the people were acting and their false worship, he became so angry that he threw the tablets with the ten commandments that the Lord had given to him on the ground and they were broken.

It is hard for us to understand how the children of Israel could so quickly have turned away from the Lord and gone back to the lies of the Egyptian religion. They had seen how God destroyed every one of those false gods during

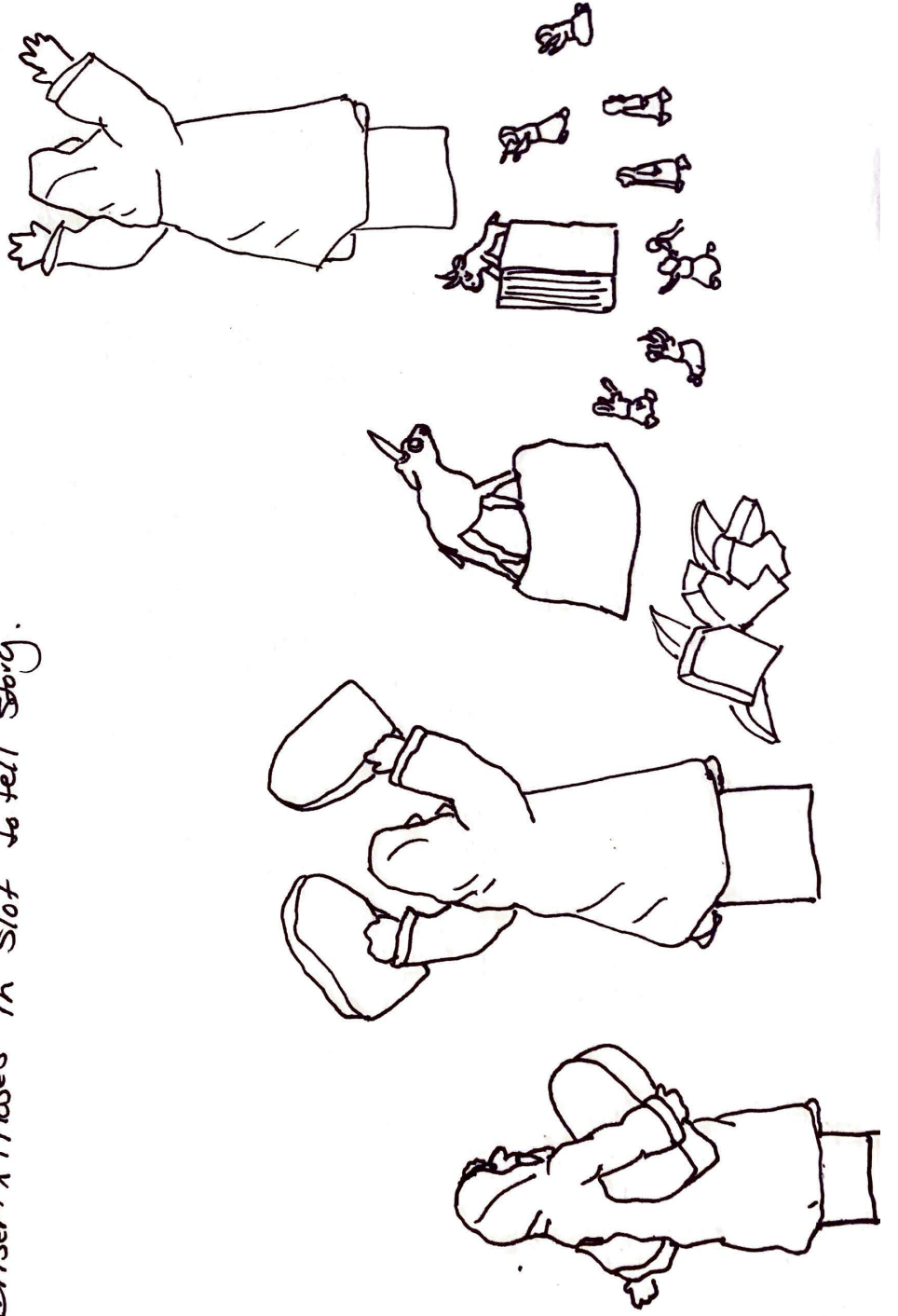
the plagues that he brought on Egypt. They had seen the Lord's mighty deliverance from their enemies. He had fed them when there was no food. Yet at the first opportunity, they turned away from the truth. That is the nature of man, he is always quick to turn away from the Lord and his truth. It is only by God's mercy that we can obey him and walk in his way. We need always to ask him to keep us on the right path, and to keep us from turning away from the truth. He has promised that he will always be with us to guide us in the right way.

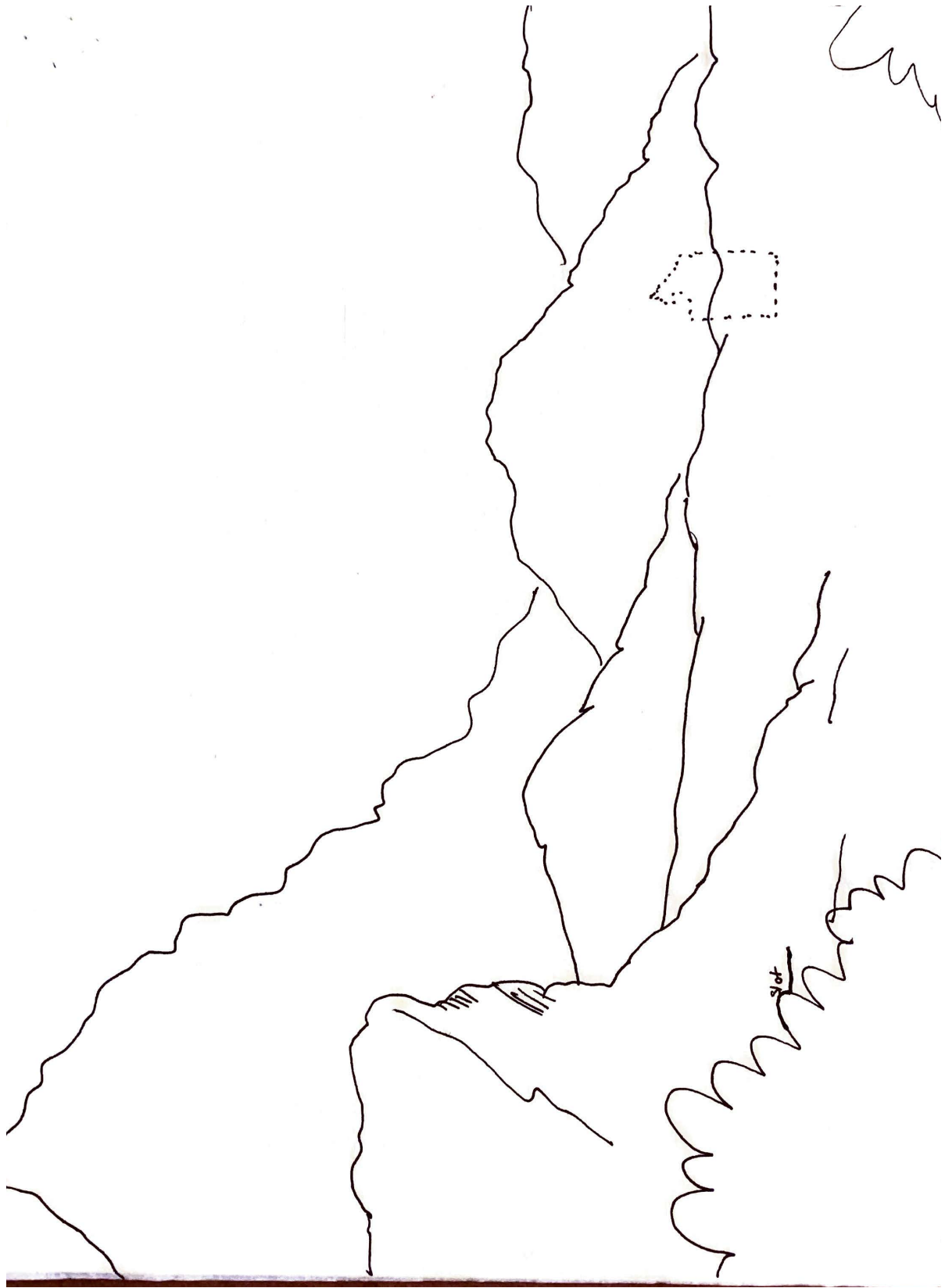
Note: It is interesting to see in Exodus 31:17, that the worship of the sabbath or the seventh day was given to Israel as a perpetual covenant, not to any other people.

LEARN: For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

Psalm 48:14

1. Color the scene.
2. Color the two Moses - the <sup>small</sup> golden calf, and the people.
3. Cut out all pieces - Be sure to leave the tabs on Moses.
4. Paste Calf and people in appropriate places.
5. Insert ~~of~~ Moses in slot to tell story.





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he will be our guide even unto death.  
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