

## WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE ?

Exodus 32:11 - 32:35

June 20, 2007

When the Lord told Moses what the children of Israel had done, how they had made a calf of gold to be their god, Moses prayed to the Lord on their behalf. He reminded the Lord of his promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, telling them that their descendants would inherit the land of Canaan. The Lord heard the prayer of Moses and did not destroy the people.

As Moses came down the mountain, he and Joshua heard the noise of the people's false worship below them in the camp. Moses' anger burned as he saw what the people were doing. He threw the tablets that the Lord had given him with the commands on them to the ground, so that they broke. The tablets were broken just as the people's fellowship with God had been broken by their rebellion against him.

Moses took the calf which the people had made, and burnt it in the fire. Then he ground the gold to powder, strewed it on the water, and made the people drink the water.

Moses said to Aaron his brother, "What did these people do to you that you brought this great sin upon them?"

Aaron answered Moses, "Don't let your anger against me grow strong. You know the people, and that they are bent toward mischief. They said to me, 'Make us gods, which shall go before us. As for Moses, who brought us out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him.' Then I told the people to bring me their gold. When they brought it, I just threw it into the fire and it came out a calf."

Moses looked around him at the people. He saw that their wickedness had shamed in the eyes of their enemies. Moses stood in the gate of the camp and he called out, "Who is on the Lord's side? Let him come to me." At his call all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together near Moses.

Then Moses said to them, "This is what the Lord says, 'Every man put on his sword and go throughout the camp destroying those around him.'"

The men of Levi did as they were told, and that day about three thousand of the men in the camp were killed because of the great sin that Israel had sinned against the Lord.

The next day Moses said to the people, "You have sinned a great sin, now I will go to the Lord and plead for you."

Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin and have made for themselves gods of gold. Yet now, if you will forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray out of the book of your book."

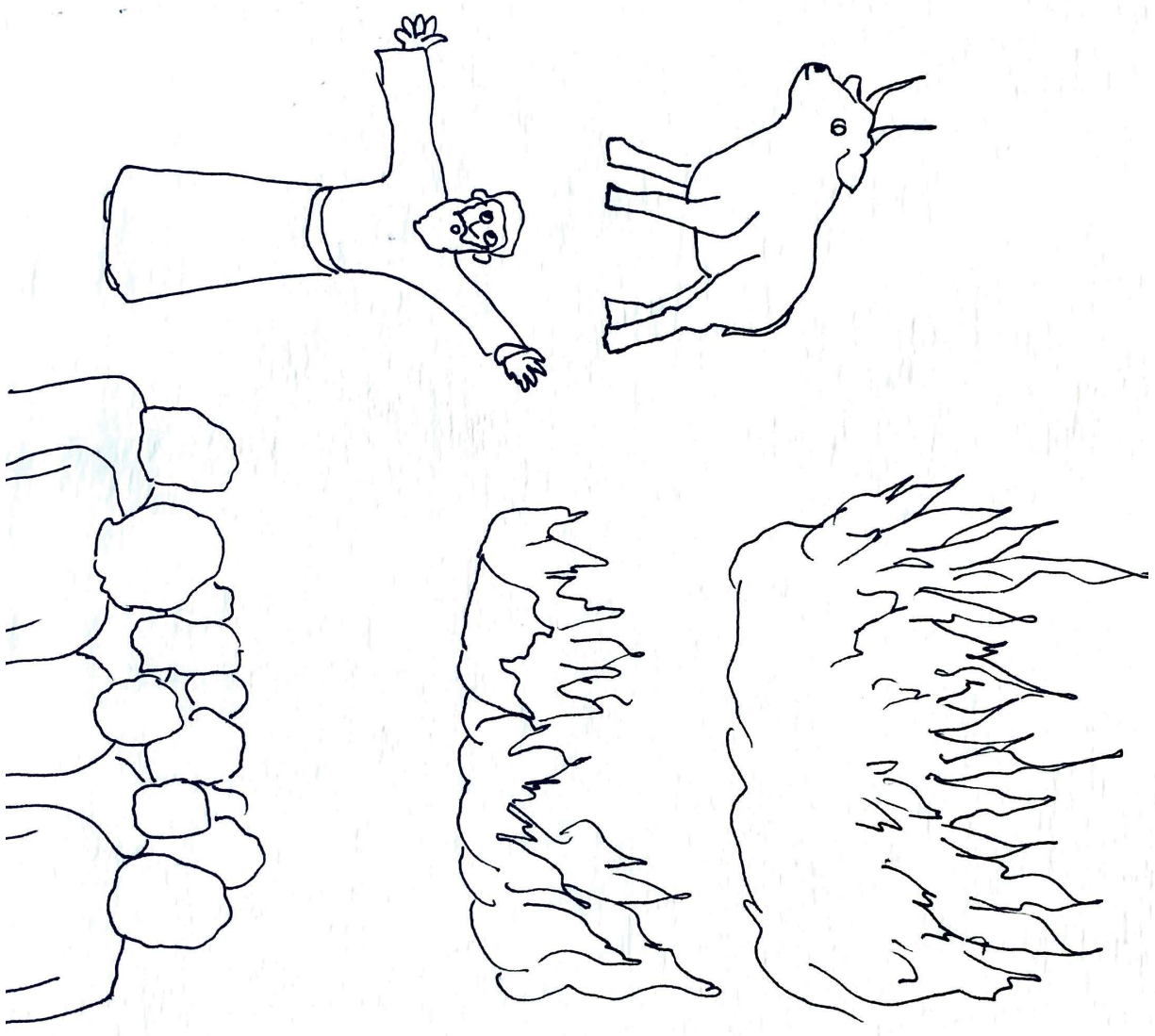
The Lord answered Moses, "Whoever has sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. Now go, lead the people where I will show you. My Angel will go before you. Still, I will bring judgment against them for their sin." The Lord plagued the people because of the calf that they and Aaron had made.

It is interesting to see how Aaron answered Moses when he was asked why he had made the calf. Aaron did not say, "I have sinned greatly." Instead, he blamed the whole thing on the people, saying that he was afraid of them because they were so set on evil. How often we blame others for our sins, rather than taking the responsibility for what we have done that is wrong. No matter what others may do, each of us has the choice to make. We can choose to do what is right or we can choose to do what is easy and sinful. The Lord always knows our motives, we can not fool him by blaming what we do on others! May the Lord help each of us to choose his way no matter how hard it may seem at the time.

In the end the price of the people's and Aaron's sin was very high, for there are always consequences or wages for sin. Some of the people were killed right away, and the nation as a whole suffered God's judgment as he plagued them. Sin may look so beguiling, and sometimes even almost innocent, but in the end it bites like a serpent. To disobey God always brings a price. May the Lord give us wisdom to look ahead to what the price may be, rather than jumping into something that we will regret later.

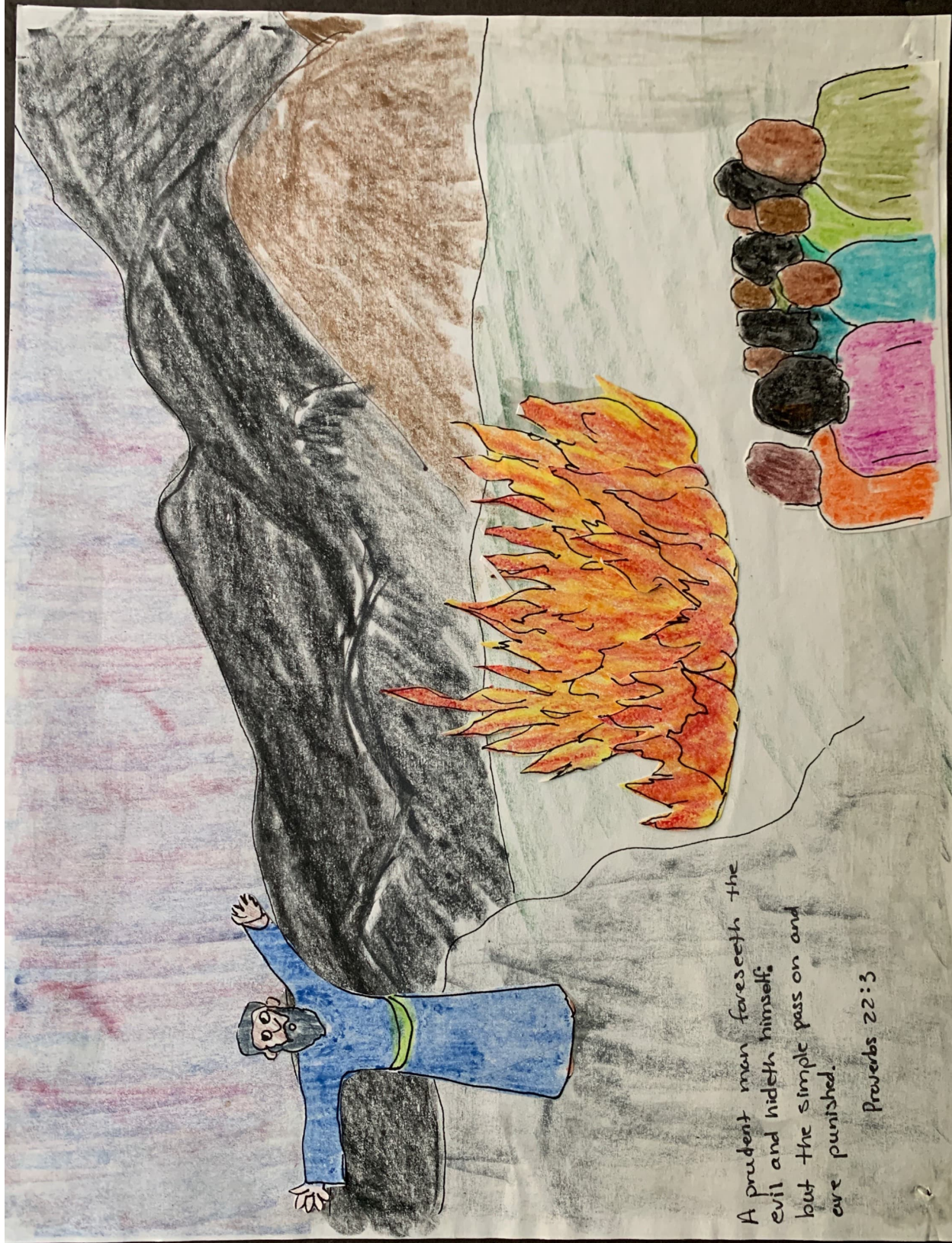
**LEARN:** A prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself: but the simple pass on and are punished.

Proverbs 22:3



1. Color the scene.
2. Color crowd, Moses, gold calf and flames.
3. Cut out and past on scene with calf thrown into flames. - Large flame in back - then calf, then short flame in front.
4. Arts crowd against bottom edge of scene and Moses to left of fire.





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