

## #11 Exodus 25-40, Wright C. 8. The Broken Covenant Renewed.

I INtroductions and announcements.

II Prayer.

III Review: The Israelites who fled Egypt are gradually changing from a disorganized rabble into a unified, functional group. They have learned how to defend themselves, 17:8-16, and they have organized a judiciary, c18. Then, in the theophany (manifestation of God) at Mt. Sinai, they have acquired their first constitution with two types of law: apodictic or 'thou shalt not' and casuistic or case law, which means: If this happens, this is the remedy.

IV OVERVIEW: What is lacking? A functional, organized religion. Humans are intrinsically religious; they believe in gods or powers beyond their control who can do them good or harm. They require a religion with leaders, (priests), liturgy, sacrifices, alters and a holy place in order to relate to their god in the presence of their community. If this is not provided in a satisfactory way, people will try to create their own.

Exodus 25-40 is a single story in three sections which describes this need and its resolution. Section 1, c. 25-31, tells of Moses on Mt. Sinai with YHWH working out the details of the religion and its practice. Section 2 c. 32-34, is a powerful, dramatic illustration of what happens without a functional religion and in the absence of strong leadership. Section 3 c. 35-40, describes the fulfillment of the plan to create a Tabernacle (dwelling place), a priesthood and a liturgy for the worship needs of Israel

Wright, c. 8, focuses on the middle section, the Golden Calf.

V Ex. 25-31 contains detailed instructions for building and using a portable worship structure, a Tabernacle. The back of this study sheet has sketch.

C. 35-40 contains parallel material on the fulfillment of the plan.

VI 32:16. In the absence of Moses the people become apprehensive and rebellious. What do they demand from Aaron? Analyze his response. Why do former slaves have gold earrings?

7-10. YHWH is displeased and threatens destruction and a new start.

11-14. Moses intercedes. Wright p 65. YHWH repents (relents).

What previous episode of a leader reasoning with God does this recall?

15-21 We have already noted that Moses has a temper. What are his three actions on his return to camp?

22-24. We have discussed that we all inherit from Adam an extreme difficulty in accepting responsibility for our sins, errors, mistakes and failures. Adam, you recall, divided the blame for his failure equally between God and Eve. Is Aaron strong enough to break this pattern?

25-29. Some of the men of Israel are executed by the Levites.

30-35 Moses pleads with YHWH for forgiveness of the people.

Does forgiveness erase all harm done by the sin?

VII C. 33 contains a series of events as Israel prepares to leave Mt. Sinai; it illustrates the concern of the people for the presence and protection of YHWH.

VIII In c. 34, the two stone tablets are replaced, v 1-5. 29-35. There is a powerful description of the LORD in 6-8. Is this how you perceive God? 34:10-28 is a varied, restatement of the Covenant. Compare with c. 20.

IX C. 35-40 describes the creation and dedication of the Tabernacle. In pagan temples, the innermost sanctum contains a statue of the god. What is the comparable content of the inner sanctum here?

X Next time: Review thoughts on Exodus. Then Wright c. 9, Lev. c. 4. Is the Covenant conditional?