

ONE in the word

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (Jesus).” (John 5:39)

January 31

TODAY’S READING: Exodus 29-32

OVERVIEW: God gives instruction on the consecration of the priests; God explains how the tabernacle is to operate; God appoints specific men to oversee the building of the tabernacle; God emphasizes the Sabbath day; Israel sins against God; Moses intercedes for Israel.

HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS: For 40 days (since the end of Exodus 24) Moses has been back on Mount Sinai receiving explicit direction from God. Israel had just faithfully promised, “All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.” (Exodus 24:3) What could be better? God’s presence was apparent; God was actively working with Israel; Moses was at that very moment on the mount hearing from God.

BUT – (Genesis 4:7) “Sin lieth at the door.” Aaron (the High Priest about whom God was giving detailed instructions on how he would picture our High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ), bows to the pressures of the people, builds a false god and leads Israel in the worship of it; dancing about it naked and praising it for delivering them from Egypt. How could they be so weak?

Then comes the lame cover up (Exodus 32:24), where, when confronted with his sin, Aaron explains that he simply threw the gold into the fire and out popped this golden calf! That “miracle” having taken place, the only natural thing was to then set it in front of the people so they could dance around it and party the day away in sensual lust.

Sadly, the wonderful things that God had planned for His people were being permanently polluted by them as He spoke (Acts 7:41). While God is painting a beautiful picture of how His people could exemplify His holiness and mercy, Israel is painting the dreadful portrait of how we so often react to His love (1 Corinthians 10:1-10).

Make special note that this great sin of Israel is also used in Stephen’s sermon in Acts 7:41 to illustrate how we so blatantly reject God’s perfect plan.

CHRIST IS REVEALED:

- Through God’s plan for Aaron the HIGH PRIEST – Exodus 29 (Hebrews 7:26 – 8:1)

- Through the ONCE-A-YEAR SACRIFICE FOR ATONEMENT – Exodus 30:10
(Romans 6:10; Hebrews 7:27; 9:7, 12; 10:10)