

The Book of Exodus

Lesson 22

Chapters 31-32

The Craftsman Bezalel

Exodus 31:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ² "See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. ³ "And I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship, ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, ⁵ and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all *kinds of* craftsmanship.

The LORD always has people in place in every generation to complete His divine work. Moses was the man to lead the Israelites out of Egypt and no one could take his place. However, even as the leader, Moses did not have the skills to craft the Tabernacle, its furnishings and fixtures. That position was reserved for Bezalel. His name means *under his protection* and the LORD had prepared him during his days in Egypt for this specific task at Mount Sinai. Notice that the LORD says, **"I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *kinds of* craftsmanship, ^{to} make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all *kinds of* craftsmanship."** The "Spirit of God" means just what it says. The same Spirit that hovered over the earth in Genesis chapter 1 had taken residence in the life of Bezalel. The Spirit had endowed him with **"wisdom,"** the Hebrew word *chochmah* meaning having the mind and capacity necessary to teach, to judge and to advise the workers in the project. He had the **"understanding,"** the Hebrew word *tebunah* meaning the ability to discern, distinguish and comprehend the different parts of a work, how to connect and complete the whole. He had **"knowledge,"** the Hebrew word *daath*, meaning acquaintance with the materials needed to fashion them according to the plan.

The Scripture says that Bezalel had the ability **"to make artistic designs."** The Hebrew is *machashaboth* and it means *genius*. With that, the LORD is telling Moses, "Bezalel has all that he needs to be to get this project completed – He's the man!"

The Superintendent Oholiab

Exodus 31:6a **"And behold, I Myself have appointed with him Oholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan;**

Every project needs a leader, but it also needs a superintendent, a second in charge and for the building of the Tabernacle and all its furnishings that will be the LORD's choice of Oholiab from the tribe of Dan. His name means *father's tent*. How interesting it is that Bezalel will lead the work of all the metals and wood and Oholiab will lead the weaving of all the textiles. Literally, Oholiab will, with the help of many weavers, stitch the Tent of Meeting, the Tabernacle of the LORD.

The Skillful Men and the List of Projects

Exodus 31:6b and in the hearts of all who are skillful I have put skill, that they may make all that I have commanded you: ⁷ the tent of meeting, and the ark of testimony, and the mercy seat upon it, and all the furniture of the tent, ⁸ the table also and its utensils, and the pure *gold* lampstand with all its utensils, and the altar of incense, ⁹ the altar of burnt offering also with all its utensils, and the laver and its stand, ¹⁰ the woven garments as well, and the holy garments for Aaron the priest, and the garments of his sons, *with which* to carry on their priesthood; ¹¹ the anointing oil also, and the fragrant incense for the holy place, they are to make *them* according to all that I have commanded you."

We do not know how many skillful workers were employed in this project. Yet, we do know that the LORD was present in the hearts of every one of them during the construction.

With that, the LORD lists all the major items to be built. Notice that three times minor items are mentioned in the words "**its utensils.**" These utensils include all the bowls, pots, knives, spoons, paddles, censers, reservoirs and forks. Although the utensils are not described, we can be assured that Moses drew pictures of them from the designs he saw on Mount Sinai.

The Holy Sabbath

Exodus 31:12 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, ¹³ "But as for you, speak to the sons of Israel, saying, ' You shall surely observe My sabbaths; for *this* is a sign between Me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I am the LORD who sanctifies you. ¹⁴ 'Therefore you are to observe the sabbath, for it is holy to you. Everyone who profanes it shall surely be put to death; for whoever does any work on it, that person shall be cut off from among his people. ¹⁵ ' For six days work may be done, but on the seventh day there is a sabbath of complete rest, holy to the LORD; whoever does any work on the sabbath day shall surely be put to death. ¹⁶ 'So the sons of Israel shall observe the sabbath, to celebrate the sabbath throughout their generations as a perpetual covenant.' ¹⁷ " It is a sign between Me and the sons of Israel forever; for in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, but on the seventh day He ceased *from labor*, and was refreshed."

When completed, the product of the six days of creation was very good. On the seventh day, God rested. The Hebrew word for rest is *Sabbath* and it became the name of the seventh day of every week. The Sabbath is Saturday on our calendar. It means to cease or desist. It means that on the seventh day, God ceased creating. All that was to be was created in the first six days and each creation was expected to be fruitful and multiply to perpetuate its existence. The miracle of passing on life to the next generation of all plants and animals was instilled once and for all when each life was created within the first six days. God set aside the seventh day to be perpetually different from the rest. It was and is to be a holy day, God's day! Here, for the first time, God specifically required his people to rest on the Sabbath in honor and worship of Him. It had been the rule since the dawn of creation, but now, with this obstinate people chosen by the LORD to be His people, He made it plain with no excuses. They had heard the LORD speak to them when

they reached Mount Sinai a month or so before, “Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy;” now, the penalty for not keeping the day holy was death. It was written in stone.

The Two Stone Tablets

Exodus 31:18 And when He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God.

Finally, after forty days on the mountain, the LORD handed Moses the tablets of stone promised when he called him to come hither. Aaron was in charge in the camp. Joshua was left halfway up the mountain waiting for Moses to return. Moses was in the cloud with the LORD on Sinai. Six days Moses waited with no word from the LORD. The clock was also ticking for Aaron and Joshua. The people in the camp were still calm. On the seventh day, the LORD began to speak to Moses and He showed Moses all that was to be built. Joshua was patiently waiting. Aaron was not. The people were impatient. Where was Moses? Ten days had passed. Then fifteen. Then twenty. Then a month. They were tired and restless and exclaimed, “We need a god!” The LORD handed the two tablets of stone to Moses containing the Ten Commandments **“written by the finger of God.”** Can you imagine?

Impatient People in the Camp

Exodus 32:1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled about Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us a god who will go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."

“We do not know what has become of him,” the people cried out to Aaron. Here is an interesting predicament. These people were on the east side of Mount Sinai in the land of Midian, far from the nearest village that could not hold them if just the 600,000 men, not including the women and children, descended on it. These people had water, manna and meat to sustain their lives. What were they doing? They were bored!

Moses had been gone for a month or more and they needed a project; they needed a god to worship. They needed a leader to lead them in the worship of a god. They selected Aaron? Why?

Moses had left Aaron in charge. But even if Moses was not coming back to the camp, as was their thought, why did they select Aaron? As rebellious as they were, why did they not select someone else? Notice that they called Moses, **“the man.”** Where was the relationship? Where was the gratitude? Where was the loyalty? They were not in distress. They were not in danger. They were well-fed, well-watered, well-clothed. What had become of **“the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt?”** Perhaps his older brother, Aaron, was the right one to question about his whereabouts.

Aaron Collects Gold

Exodus 32:2 And Aaron said to them, "Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring *them* to me." ³ Then all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears, and brought *them* to Aaron.

It seems that Aaron did not resist their request for a god. What was he thinking? Where was his loyalty to the God of gods who had answered the prayers from six months before and sent Moses to rescue the people from the land of Egypt. How short are the memories of people! **“Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, sons and your daughters, and bring them to me.”** Here we see that the Israelites may have been out of Egypt, but Egypt was hardly out of them. As slaves in Egypt, they would not have worn earrings of gold. On that last day the people of Egypt made the Israelites wealthy as they gathered to leave the country. This Egyptian and that Egyptian pulled off earrings and threw them to the Israelites as the tribes gathered and the lines formed. Earrings of gold were gathered like candy from a broken piñata. All on the ground. Like children, the Israelites wrestled for the gold and hung them on their ears. All through the journey, down the valleys and caverns, the beach and on through the Red Sea, flashes of gold hung from their ears, a sight not common to their people, at least back to the days of the Tower of Babel.

How sad it is that some of the last gifts bestowed on the Israelites as they left Egypt would now be used to abuse their own souls before a calf of molten gold.

The Molten Calf

Exodus 32:4 And he took *this* from their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made it into a molten calf; and they said, " This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt."

Aaron had a project. He melted the gold, took his hammer and beat the metal into the form of a calf. He then said, **“This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.”** It was nothing of the sort. A lie! A deception! A value of Egypt that should have been left in Egypt.

Proclamation of a Feast

Exodus 32:5 Now when Aaron saw *this*, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow *shall be* a feast to the LORD." ⁶ So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play.

The molten calf of gold created today by the hands of man, tomorrow a feast! But a feast to whom? Aaron says, **“Tomorrow *shall be* a feast to the LORD.”** The LORD was not present in the form of the molten calf. Why did Aaron say this? Look further into the passage. **“So the next day they rose early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink.”** What is wrong with that? Nothing! For whatever reason, in front of the molten calf, the Israelites offered the elements of a proper time of worship to the LORD – the burnt offering, the peace offering. The problem here is twofold. First, the object of their adoration was the calf, not the LORD. Second, in their worship, they **“rose to play.”** Play is never to be part of worship. Worship of the LORD God of creation is always serious business. Aaron knew that the LORD should have been the object of all worship and yet, he participated in this abomination. Here, we see for the first time, the infancy of a cult. Had it gone unchecked by

the LORD and Moses it would have become no less than a full blown mature cult. Cults are always formed with enough truth that people are unknowingly lured into their lair. So it is with Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, Scientology, Unification Church, Restoration of the Ten Commandments of God, Children of God, Order of the Solar Temple, Branch Davidians, People's Temple, Heaven's Gate, Alamo Christian Foundation, Association for Research and Enlightenment, Christian Science, Church of the New Jerusalem, White Revolution, The Church of Wells and at least 34,000 more lesser known cults. They all seek acceptance by quoting God's Holy Word, but from there, they play! They play with definitions of words, definitions of phrases, interpretations of passages, interpretations of doctrines inconsistent with the Word of the LORD from Mount Sinai. Nothing about that Word changes in all of the Old and New Testaments. But they change it for their abominable purposes. But beware, nothing goes unseen by the LORD. He sees the corrupted as they worship even a molten calf.

The LORD Informs Moses

Exodus 32:7 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted *themselves*.⁸ "They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it, and have sacrificed to it, and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'"⁹ And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people."¹⁰ "Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation."

Down in the camp, things have gone awry. The LORD says of the Israelites, "**They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them.**" Within the last 60 days these reprobate people had heard the actual voice of the LORD when He delivered the Ten Commandments to them audibly. They had then affirmed the ordinance given to Moses and delivered to them that defined how to live in harmony with the Ten Commandments. If that was all the instruction they had, it was all they needed and therefore, the whole camp was without excuse. Here you see an angry God. "**Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them, and that I may destroy them,**" He says.

Destroying a whole multitude of people did not bother the LORD God. His mind was made up. This whole multitude of people would be destroyed; they would not make it to the Promised Land. The plan was set. The decision was made. The details would be revealed later as are the LORD's way of doing things. Dare we forget that the LORD is all-knowing and this rebellion of these obstinate people was not a surprise to Him.

But in the anger a promise is made to Moses, "**and I will make of you a great nation.**" The LORD still had a plan and it involved the Israelites rescued from Egypt. They would still be a great and mighty nation in spite of this sinful moment.

Moses Questions the LORD

Exodus 32:11 Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why doth Thine anger burn against Thy people whom Thou hast brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"¹² "Why should the Egyptians

speak, saying, 'With evil *intent* He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Thy burning anger and change Thy mind about *doing* harm to Thy people. ¹³ "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Thy servants to whom Thou didst swear by Thyself, and didst say to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

Moses had heard the Words of the LORD and, yet, he did not, and could not, fully understand the intent of the LORD. Here Moses, encapsulated the importance of the moment. It was a time of entreating the LORD on behalf of the Israelites rescued from the bondage in Egypt. It was a time of beseeching the LORD to continue with the plan begun with Abraham, Isaac, and Israel. The LORD had no intention of changing the plan. It was just that Moses did not understand the plan.

A Change of Mind

Exodus 32:14 **So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.**

This verse is a poor translation of Hebrew into English. Here, the passage says, “**So the LORD changed His mind.**” The LORD did nothing of the sort. After reading Moses’ questions and pleas to the LORD, it would seem natural to use the word “**changed**” in this sentence. Yet, the Hebrew word translated as “**changed**” is *nacham* and it should have been translated as *comfort*, its common interpretation. The words “**His mind**” are not in the original Hebrew. Had the LORD intended it to say, “**changed His mind**” the Hebrew word would have been *metaballo*, which means *to change one’s mind*, not *nacham*.

Therefore, the English text should say, “**So the LORD was comforted about the harm which He said He would do to His people.**” Nothing was changed by Moses’ plea. The plan was the plan from the beginning of time. Even though the Israelites had just committed the abomination, and it made the LORD angry, it was not a surprise to God and it, too, was already part of the plan.

Moses and the Stone Tablets

Exodus 32:15 **Then Moses turned and went down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand, tablets which were written on both sides; they were written on one *side* and the other. ¹⁶ And the tablets were God's work, and the writing was God's writing engraved on the tablets.**

With the stones of the Ten Commandments in hand, Moses began the descent from Mount Sinai where he had been for 40 days and nights. Notice that the two stones had writing on both sides. It is supposed by many rabbis of the past that the same words were repeated on both sides. Therefore, when the tablets were held high among the crowd, the laws could be read from either side, five laws written on both sides of one tablet, five laws written on both sides of the second. We do not know what these tablets looked like. Were they thin, were they thick? Were they

small, were they large? One thing we do know, they had to fit within the confines of the Ark of the Covenant which means they were no longer than four feet five inches in length and two feet six inches in width.

Joshua with Moses

Exodus 32:17 Now when Joshua heard the sound of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, "There is a sound of war in the camp." ¹⁸ But he said, "It is not the sound of the cry of triumph, Nor is it the sound of the cry of defeat; But the sound of singing I hear."

As Moses stepped out of the cloud, he found Joshua waiting on the mountain for him. How faithful. How honorable. How devoted. How prudent of the LORD to carefully take Joshua out of the camp and place him on the mountain to wait for Moses, out of the way of the rebellion that would take place among the people. He was young. He was somewhat naive. He had no idea of what was transpiring in the camp. Soon his eyes would be filled with dismay as he and Moses returned to see the debauchery and revelry of forbidden worship transpiring.

Tablets Destroyed

Exodus 32:19 And it came about, as soon as Moses came near the camp, that he saw the calf and *the* dancing; and Moses' anger burned, and he threw the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain.

Moses had seen the anger of the LORD up on the mount. Not knowing the extent of the depravity within the camp, he pleaded with the LORD to change His mind about the Israelites. But now, with his own eyes he could see what the LORD saw, and his own anger burned. He lost his composure. His anger burst forth and he threw that which was in his hands at the rebellious people – the Testament of the LORD, written with the finger of God, the stones of the Ten Commandment. They were not unbreakable, neither the commandments nor the stones, for the Israelites had broken the commands and Moses had broken the stones.

Calf Destroyed

Exodus 32: 20 And he took the calf which they had made and burned *it* with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it over the surface of the water, and made the sons of Israel drink *it*.

How truly disgusting it must have been for the Israelites to be forced to drink the remains of their god. What an interesting spin occurs when the Bible speaks of *drinking the wrath of God*. Moses recounted the event in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 9:19-21 For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was wrathful against you in order to destroy you, but the LORD listened to me that time also. The LORD was angry enough with Aaron to destroy him; so I also prayed for Aaron at the same time. I took your sinful *thing*, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it, grinding it very small until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that came down from the mountain.

Aaron Questioned

Exodus 32:21 **Then Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you, that you have brought *such* great sin upon them?"**

Today, Moses would say to Aaron, "How could you? What got into you? You were in charge! It was your job to keep the people pure and holy before the LORD. You are the one who allowed this great sin!"

Aaron Answered

Exodus 32:22 **And Aaron said, "Do not let the anger of my lord burn; you know the people yourself, that they are prone to evil. ²³ "For they said to me, 'Make a god for us who will go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' ²⁴ "And I said to them, 'Whoever has any gold, let them tear it off.' So they gave *it* to me, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf."**

Aaron did not understand that Moses was only reflecting the anger of the LORD. (See Deut. 9:19-21 above.) Neither did Aaron tell the truth. He called for the gold earrings. He threw them in the caldron. He formed the molten gold into the calf. He called for the worship. He was in charge and he did not take responsibility for his sin that transferred to the whole nation. It, too, was part of the LORD's eternal plan for the obstinate people.

Moses Calls for Help

Exodus 32:25 **Now when Moses saw that the people were out of control-- for Aaron had let them get out of control to be a derision among their enemies-- ²⁶ then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, "Whoever is for the LORD, *come* to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered together to him.**

How was it that Moses saw the people "out of control?" That is not a good translation. The King James Version correctly translated it as "Now when Moses saw that the people were **naked**." They were nude in their worship and this action brought them low before the LORD and disgusted Him.

What is "derision?" It means *blasphemy*. Aaron was the catalyst. Had he not formed the molten calf, the people would have continued to stammer around looking for something to do. With Aaron's creation and his call for the feast, the derision began in full. When Moses said they are a "derision among their enemies," he meant they were a *laughingstock*.

Moses called for help to bring the revelry under control. No surprise! Only his own tribe volunteered. They were not necessarily without blame; more than likely, they were just convicted by the sin of one of their own - Aaron.

Moses Sends to Battle

Exodus 32:27 **And he said to them, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Every man of you put his sword upon his thigh, and go back and forth from gate to gate in the**

camp, and kill every man his brother, and every man his friend, and every man his neighbor."

Moses sent the Levites to kill all the reprobates with the sword. The search was to be complete from the entry to the exit in the plain of their camp at Mount Sinai. No hiding place ignored, no naked person saved.

Three Thousand Die

Exodus 32:28 So the sons of Levi did as Moses instructed, and about three thousand men of the people fell that day.

By the end of the day, the number of true perpetrators in the camp was recorded. Three thousand had participated, three thousand had indulged, three thousand had pandered to the molten calf, made it their god, offered holy offerings in a strange ceremony and accomplished it in the same perverse manner customary to the idolatrous religious practices of Egyptian worship. Naked! Lude! Sexual! Debased!

Call for Dedication

Exodus 32:29 Then Moses said, " Dedicate yourselves today to the LORD-- for every man has been against his son and against his brother-- in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you today." ³⁰ And it came about on the next day that Moses said to the people, " You yourselves have committed a great sin; and now I am going up to the LORD, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin."

The eyes of the camp had witnessed a dire sight which they should never have seen! Purity was needed and needed fast. Today! Even with the three thousand dead, no doubt buried in the sand, a rededication to the LORD was needed. Moses was at a dead end. He did not know how to help the people. He needed help, too, and he knew there was only one place to find it. Up on the mount! Moses needed help from the LORD. Moses had not sinned and neither had Joshua. But the rest of the camp was more or less guilty. Moses must have wondered what the LORD was thinking. What can cover the sin of the camp? What can wash it away? What will purify the people? What can Moses do? He can only hope that a visit with the LORD will give the answer.

Moses Returns to the Mountain

Exodus 32: 31 Then Moses returned to the LORD, and said, "Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves. ³² "But now, if Thou wilt, forgive their sin-- and if not, please blot me out from Thy book which Thou hast written!"

Moses had nothing to offer the LORD for the sins of the people except himself. The LORD will one day say, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) But that was not the case here. Moses was not offering to give up his physical life, he was offering his eternal life as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. Moses had not signed up for this task. The LORD called to him from the burning bush about six months before and enlisted him.

Surely the events of the past days had changed him and his heart for his people but what had compelled him to offer his eternal life for this obstinate people chosen by the LORD?

We dare not pass up this first mention of a book written by the LORD that contains the names of people. A book written before the creation of the heavens and the earth. A book with your name and mine. A book listing all the names of all the people who will ever live on this earth. Moses was in that book as well as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Eve, Rebekah, Rachel and Zipporah, not to mention the souls yet to be born. David, Solomon, yours and mine.

Moses was so invested in this group of obstinate people that he was willing to have his name blotted out of the LORD's book of names. The same theme runs through the Holy Scripture. In the last book the LORD says, "He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not blot his name from the book of life."³⁰ To be blotted out, it must first be written! The all-knowing LORD God wrote every name in the book before He created man. It is stored in the library of heaven under His sole control.

Blot Out of the LORD's Book

Exodus 32:33 And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book. ³⁴ "But go now, lead the people where I told you. Behold, My angel shall go before you; nevertheless in the day when I punish, I will punish them for their sin."

What about this book? The LORD confirmed Moses' understanding of its existence. The LORD will blot names out of the book and here it is for one reason, sin against the LORD. He sent Moses back to the camp to be their leader and an angel would be with Moses in his endeavors. Punishment of the people would occur, and the LORD would do it, but not now. It would come when the LORD was ready.

Smiting of the People

Exodus 32:35 Then the LORD smote the people, because of what they did with the calf which Aaron had made.

Beginning with the golden calf, the Israelites were no longer pardoned for their sins. For the past six months, when the people complained, the LORD rewarded them with some great and grand gift. For instance, the ten plagues and the Passover, the opening of the Red Sea, the sweet water, the date palms, the manna, the quail, the water from the rock are all examples. The LORD would mix a few more in the days ahead but as a matter of detail, unknown to the people at this time, the LORD would not allow one of them, twenty and older, who worshiped the calf, to leave the desert alive save Joshua and Caleb. The Jews have a saying concerning all their trials and tribulations through the years and it goes like this, "No afflictions have ever happened to Israel in which there was not some particle of the dust of the golden calf." Lo, they had drunk the water of abomination before the calf while Moses was on the mount. Lo, Moses had made them drink the residue of their abomination of the calf when he arrived in the camp. Israel, the LORD's chosen people had begun their rocky journey through time.

³⁰ Revelation 3:5