

Story 57/58: The Israelites Moved Towards Canaan

Moses stayed on Mt. Sinai for 40 days to receive the Ten Commandments. The people became impatient and forgot about God. They made a gold idol shaped like a calf and worshiped it. Moses came down from the mountain and saw the people worshiping the idol. He became very angry and threw down the stone tablets. The tablets broke into many pieces. God was also angry with the people and punished them. Moses prayed to God and asked him to forgive the Israelites. Then God told Moses to go back to Mt. Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments a second time. Soon after that, God told Moses to start moving the Israelites toward the land he promised to give them. The land already had people living there. Those people worshiped false gods and did not want to obey the One True God. They would not be friendly towards the Israelites. God promised to help the Israelites enter Canaan, their new home.

Read this story in the Bible in Exodus 32:1-35; 33:1-6; 34:1-35

Words to Know

impatient – not calm; restless; not willing to wait quietly

Questions

1. Why did the people become impatient while Moses was on Mt. Sinai?
2. What did the people forget about God?
3. Before Moses brought the 10 Commandments down from Mt. Sinai, the people had already disobeyed some commandments. Which ones did they disobey?
4. Why did Moses break the stone tablets?
5. How did God feel about the golden calf?
6. Why did Moses go back up to Mt. Sinai?
7. What did God tell Moses to do after he received the 10 Commandments the second time?
8. Why would it be difficult for the Israelites to enter Canaan?
9. How would it be possible for the Israelites to enter Canaan with so many enemies there?

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