

GRACE UPON GRACE

EXODUS 32-34

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, *“Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”*



Aaron answered them, *“Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.”*

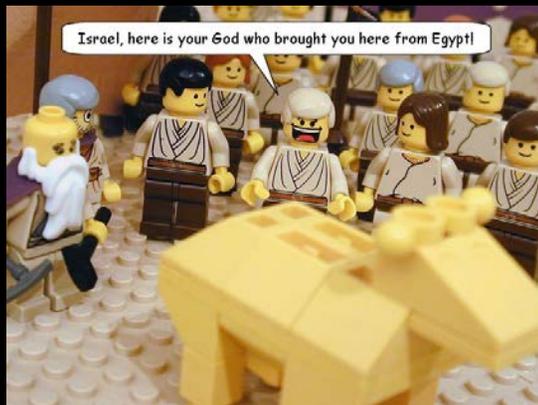
So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.



He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool.



Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”



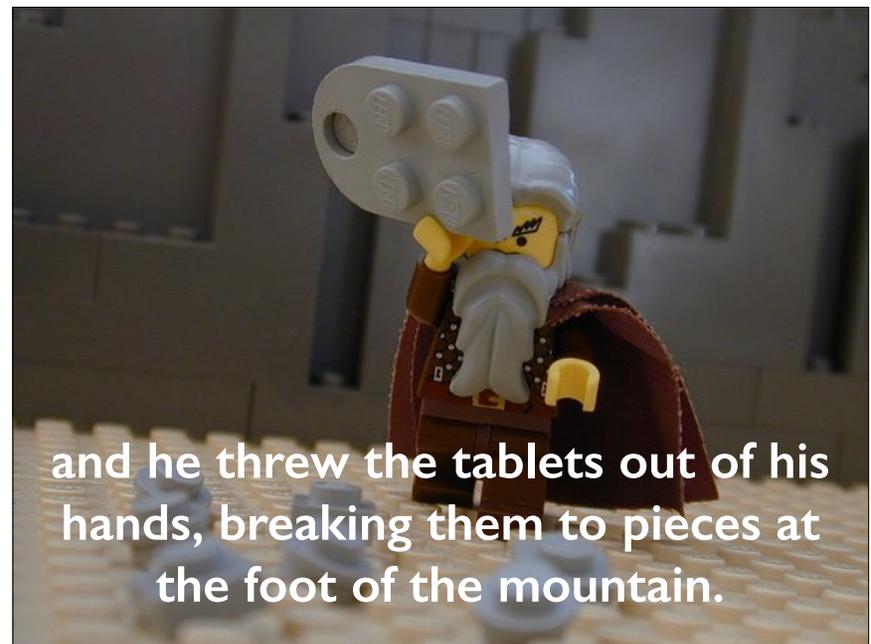
When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.”



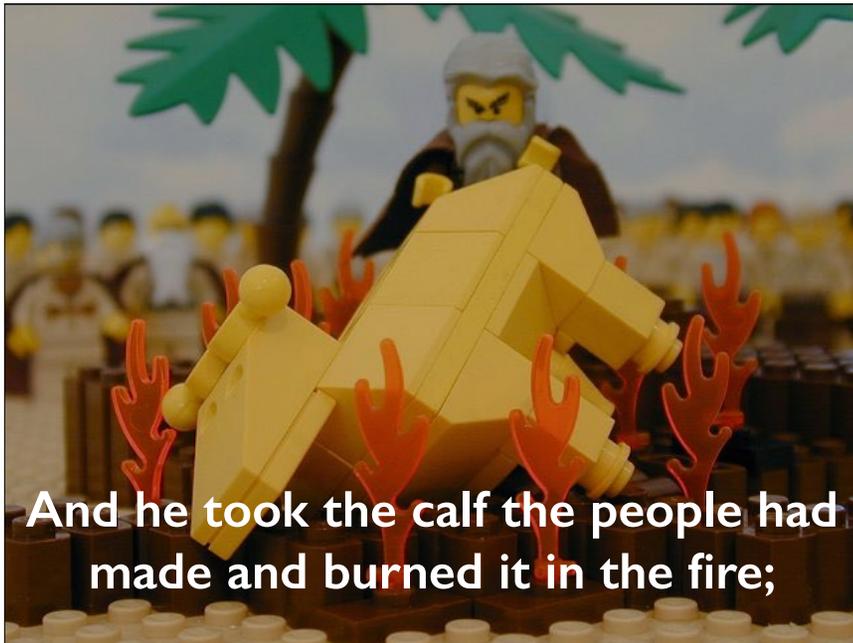
So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because *your* people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, ‘*These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.*’

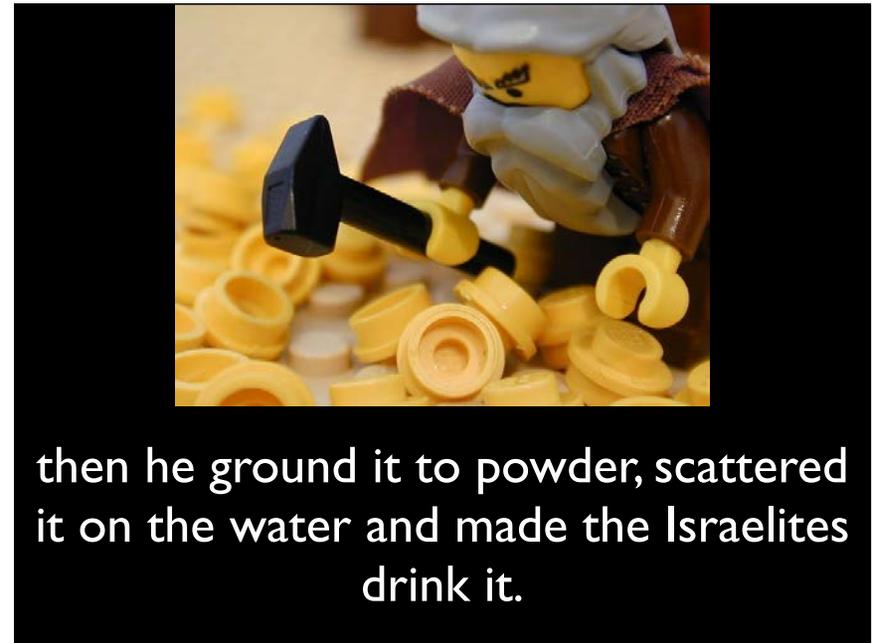
When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned ...



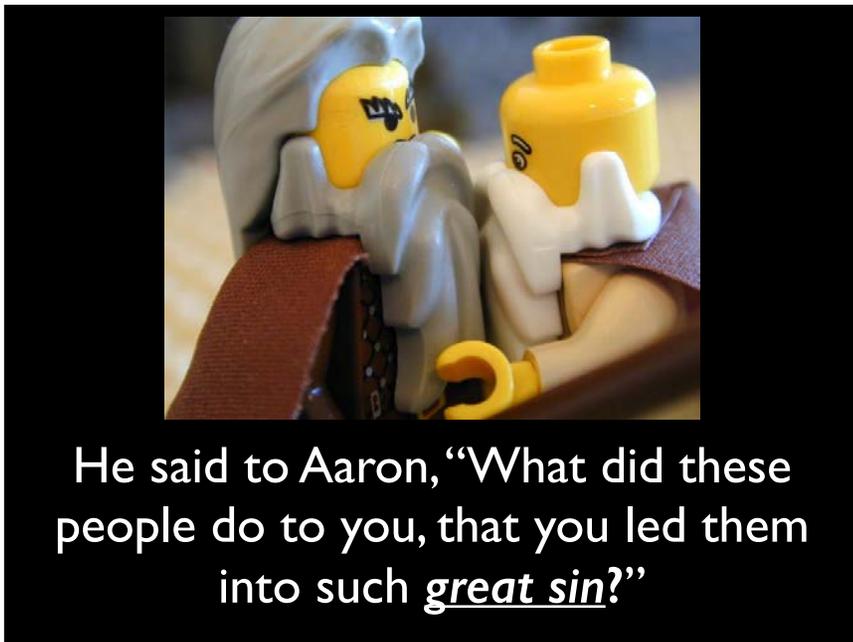
and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain.



And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire;



then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.



He said to Aaron, "What did these people do to you, that you led them into such *great sin?*"



GREAT SIN



This is a legal term found in documents from Ugarit and in Egyptian marriage contracts, always referring to adultery. Also in the Bible describing the Abraham/Avimelech; Joseph/Potiphar's wife episodes, and idolatry.

BREAKING THE TABLETS

This was not an impetuous act; rather, it quite deliberately signified the abrogation of the covenant.

In Akkadian legal terminology to “break the tablet” (tuppam ḥepû) means to invalidate or repudiate a document or agreement.

GROUNDING THE TABLETS INTO POWDER

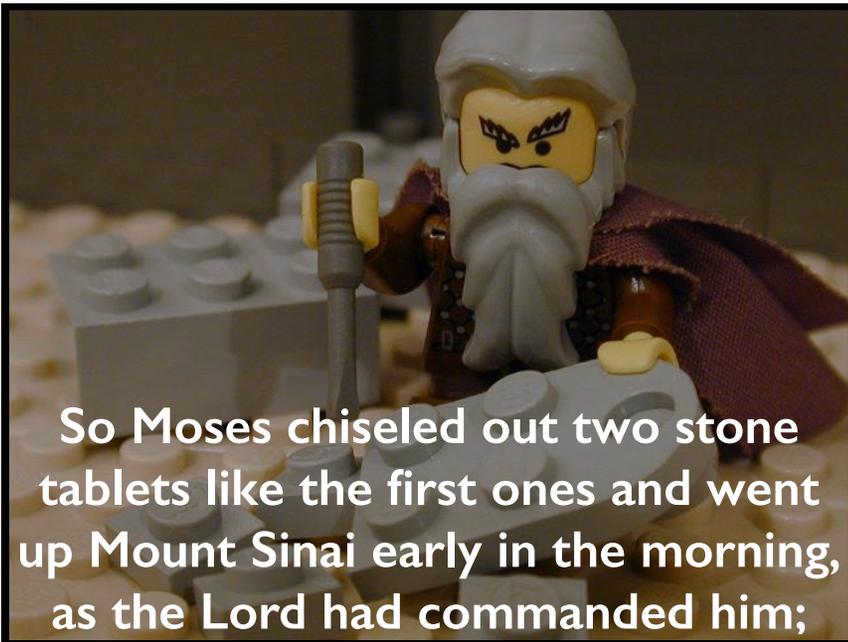


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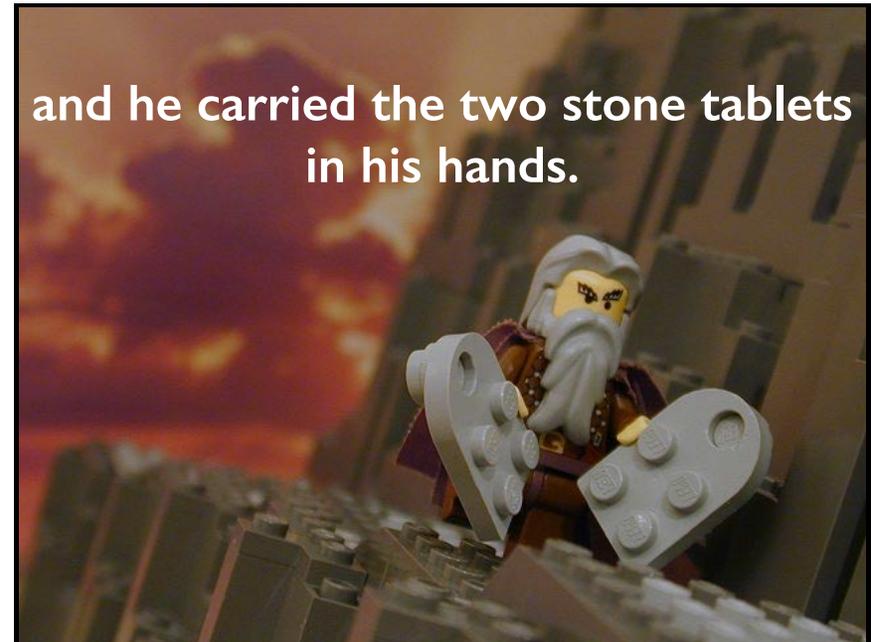


NUMBERS 5:11-31

**GRACE
UPON
GRACE**



So Moses chiseled out two stone tablets like the first ones and went up Mount Sinai early in the morning, as the Lord had commanded him;



and he carried the two stone tablets in his hands.



Then the Lord came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the Lord.

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,

“The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.

“Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

God's Grace

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proclaiming,

“The Lord, the Lord, the
compassionate and gracious God,
slow to anger, abounding in love and
faithfulness, maintaining love to
thousands, and forgiving wickedness,
rebellion and sin.

The idea is to inculcate the human imitation
of God's moral qualities:
compassion, graciousness, grace, forbearance,
kindness, fealty, and forgivingness.

**Grace Filled
Towards Others**

**FORGIVE
THEM**

Jesus said, *"Father, forgive them, for they
do not know what they are doing."*

Luke 23:34



GRACE
Changes
EVERYTHING



**Grace Filled
Towards Ourselves**

Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

1 Timothy 1:13-15

Stewards of God's Grace

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

