

# The Old-Time Evangelistic News

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## How Will You Worship the Next Time? (Part 4)

Exodus 24:1-2, 9-11

So far in this introduction we have considered The Desire of God and The Display of God. We now come to the third part—**The Delightfulness with God**. As we submit to God’s desire for worship and behold the beauty of God’s display, there will be a delightful state that we can enjoy when we worship. Notice the last clause of Exodus 24:11—“*and did eat and drink.*” There is a wonderful communion with God, both physical and spiritual, that comes when we worship God. Every part of man, both physical and spiritual, must be involved in worship. It is not enough to say that we worship God spiritually, and then do whatever we want to in our physical body. Remember what God commanded in the New Testament in I Corinthians 10:31—“*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*” Everything we do should be for God’s honor and should bring Him glory. In fact, if we are not constantly living a life that is pleasing to God, then we cannot truly worship Him. Everything must be completely consecrated to Him. Then we can truly worship Him as He desires.

It is interesting to me that after a great spiritual activity of seeing God, the account closes with the physical activity of eating and drinking. But where did the food and drink come from? The text does not say, so we can only guess, but there are only two possible answers for The Supply. They either brought it with them, or God made it for them. Either answer provides some wonderful applications. If God made it for them, then we can see it as a precursor of what is promised in Matthew 6:33. In that verse Jesus said, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” The “*these things*” refer back to the food, drink, and clothing that Jesus referred to in

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Matthew 6:31. Jesus taught that if you serve God faithfully, then He will supply your physical need. The men worshiped God, then He gave them physical food.

This provision by God for the elders could also serve as a lesson that they could tell the whole nation—if they worship God as He desires, then He will take care of their physical need. Just a few chapters earlier, God had begun to provide manna and also had provided water for the entire nation to drink. God may be trying to teach the entire nation through the elders that if they will worship Him, then He will provide for them. Obedience always brings provision from God. He will take care of those who love and worship Him. That does not mean that there will never be a trial, but even through the trial God will bless our obedience.

The second option for the supply would be the sacrifice that is mentioned in Exodus 24:5. This is only the second time that peace offerings are mentioned, but later we find in Leviticus 7:28-38 that part of the peace offering was given to the priest for food. Perhaps God allowed the priests and elders to take some of this up the mountain with them. If that is the case, then we can make the application that it is through the sacrifice of Christ that we receive the strength to labor for Him. There was a real sacrifice of oxen made unto the Lord. The oxen, as all sacrificed animals do, represent Christ. The men ate part of that oxen which gave them physical strength. To make it simple, Christ’s sacrifice on the cross not only saves us, but it also enables us to serve Him. Christ saves us and strengthens us. It is not Christ Who saves, and then we serve Him in our own strength. If we tried that, we would fail miserably. Sadly, many, maybe most, who try to serve Christ fail in doing so because they try to serve in their own strength. But if our service is to amount to anything, Christ must enable us. That is one lesson we can draw from Galatians 2:20 which says, “*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*” Our life must be lived for

Christ, but it can only be done through Christ Himself.

I will mention one other aspect of The Delightfulness with God. In whatever manner God made the supply, we cannot help but notice The Satisfaction of the men. They did not ask for more food, but were satisfied with what God supplied. When we eat a good meal, our appetites are satisfied. When we come to the realization that everything we have is supplied by God, we will be satisfied as well. If we need a certain amount of money, we can be sure that God will supply exactly what we need. If we need clothing or food, then we can look to God Who will give it to us. I Timothy 6:8 says, “*And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*” That does not sound like much. In this day we want more than just the absolute necessities. But whatever and however God supplies, He always does it right. The men should have learned that on the mountain. “*They saw God, and did eat and drink.*” They enjoyed a great time of worship, and then God supplied some physical nourishment. The spiritual and physical needs were met. They had done what God wanted them to do. It was a spiritual high point in their life. What would they do in response to what they had seen on the mountain? The answer to that question forms the remainder of this message.

The men could not remain on the mountain forever. There was a life to be lived and work to be done. God calls Moses to go higher up the mountain. Moses and Joshua go up higher, and Moses tells the elders to wait for Him. The chapter closes by saying that Moses was in the mount for forty days and nights. Chapters 25-31 record God giving the details about the tabernacle and priesthood. Unless I missed it, there is no record of Aaron and the others descending the mountain, but they did because chapter 32 records the episode of Aaron making the golden calf. For whatever reason, perhaps because Moses was up the mountain for so long, the men descended the mountain. But how would they respond? Would they desire to see God again? Remember all of them—Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, the seventy elders, and Moses—saw God. Would one time be enough? Would they desire the same thing again? Would they try to fashion

something of their own making? How would they worship the next time? If you have seen God before, how will you worship the next time? Let us see how these men responded to seeing God.

There will be three responses: two of them will be bad and only one of them good. We will look at the two bad responses and close with the good one. The first desire to worship God again resulted in **Mixed Up Worship**. It is found in Exodus 32. Notice The Contributors involved in this mixed up worship. Verse 1 says, “*And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.*” The people came to Aaron and demanded a god that they could see. As you read through verse 6, you find Aaron’s name again in verses 2, 3, and 5. In verse 4 the pronoun he is referring to Aaron. Aaron is the one responsible for succumbing to the desires of the people. But he is not alone. The 70 elders are not mentioned as participating with Aaron, but they are not mentioned as trying to stop him either. I would include them because of the phrase “*all the people*” that is mentioned in verse 3. My suspicion is that they were the ones who immediately came to Aaron. You have to remember that there were between 2 and 3 million people. All of them could not have been crowding around Aaron. There would not have been enough space to do something like that. There had to have been groups of people meeting together. It may have started, as things usually do, with just a handful of people thinking and suggesting they make an idol. However it started, the idea spread among the people. Then they brought the idea to the 70 elders who in turn told Aaron what the people wanted. Aaron and the 70 elders all should have opposed the idea from the beginning. If it did happen as I suggested from the people to the elders, the 70 elders should have known enough to say that an idol was wrong and they could not make one. Even if the 70 elders did not tell the people that an idol was wrong, Aaron should have told them that it was wrong and that he was not going to make an idol. Going back to the people

for a minute, all of them knew that it was wrong to make an idol. Before God called Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, and the seventy elders up the mountain, He had spoken to all of the people from the mountain. He gave the ten commandments to the entire nation. They heard God Himself say, "*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image*" (Exodus 20:4a). They heard that for themselves, and then God gave Moses further instructions from the end of chapter 20 through chapter 23. When Moses told the people what God had said, they responded, "*All the words which the LORD hath said will we do*" (Exodus 24:3). There was no excuse for what the people wanted. They had heard God's commands twice and said that they would obey.

That is bad enough, but Aaron and the 70 elders had seen God. They had heard the commands and said that they would obey. Then they had seen God on the mountain. How on earth could they give in to the desires of the people, fashion a golden calf, say it is God, and worship it? They had seen God. They knew that a golden calf would not in any way represent God. Why would they do it? I have no answer to that question. It is beyond anything that I can imagine for someone who had seen God to then fashion a calf out of gold and say that it is God. It makes no sense at all! The only possible reason is that he feared for his life. He may have been afraid that the people would kill him if he did not make the idol. But that does not make it right. He should have been willing to die. The people wanted something wrong. Aaron should have stopped it. We will continue with this thought next month.