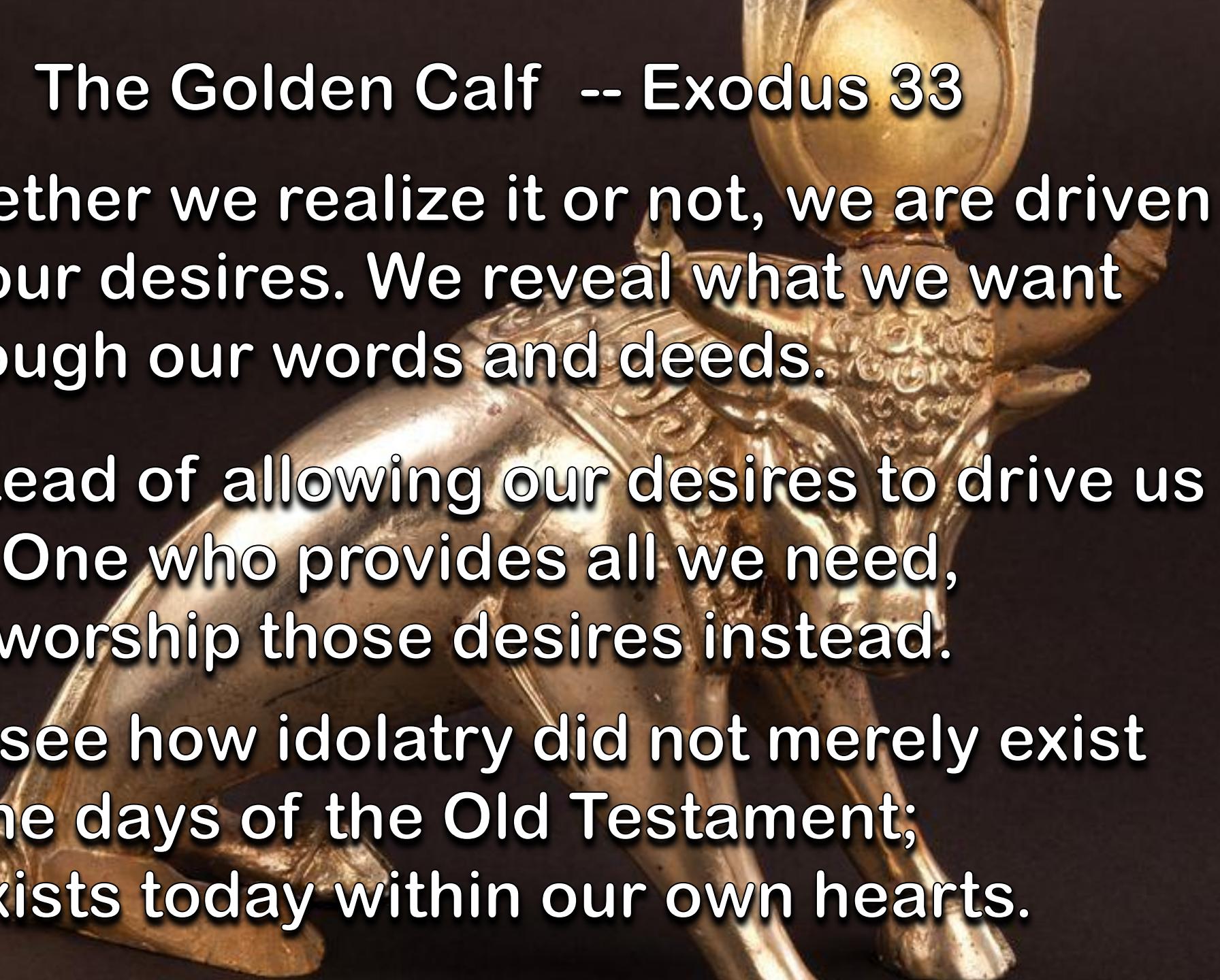


## The Golden Calf -- Exodus 33

A close-up, high-angle shot of a golden calf statue. The statue is highly detailed, showing a curved tail and a textured body. It appears to be made of gold or a similar metallic material, with some darker areas suggesting shadows or wear. The background is dark, making the golden color stand out.

Whether we realize it or not, we are driven by our desires. We reveal what we want through our words and deeds.

Instead of allowing our desires to drive us to God, the One who provides all we need, we worship those desires instead.

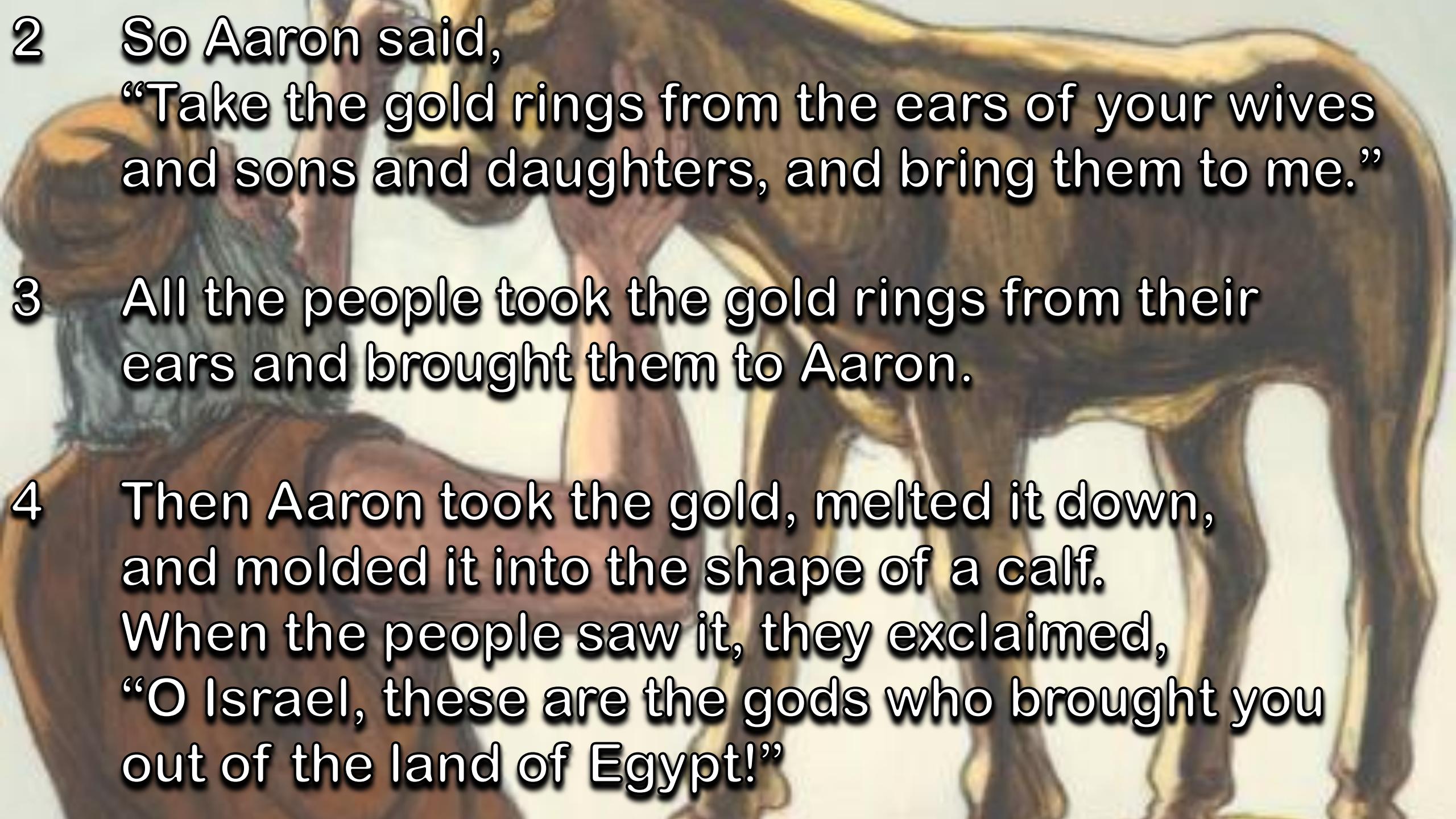
We see how idolatry did not merely exist in the days of the Old Testament; it exists today within our own hearts.

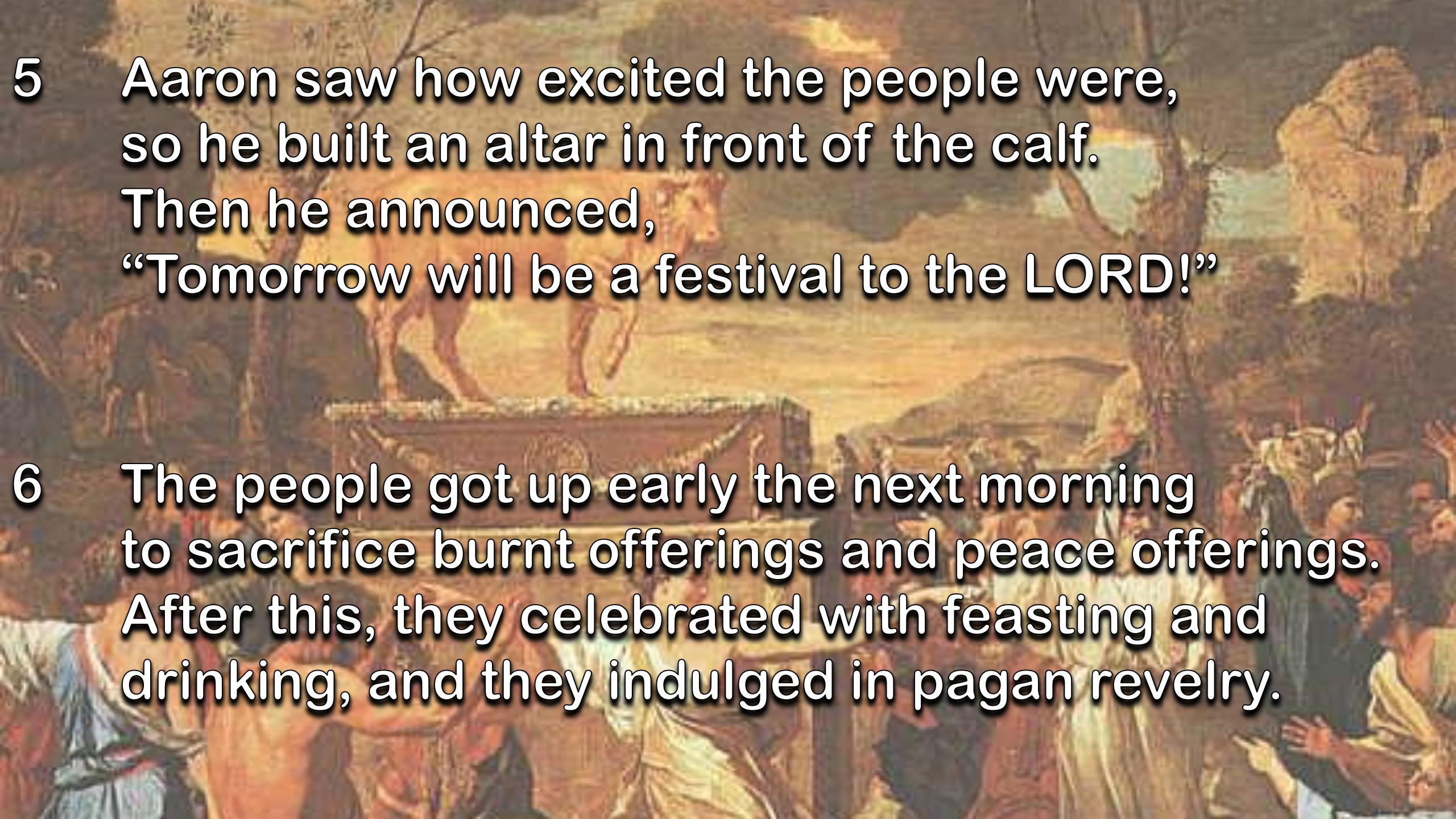
## Idol-worshipers distort true worship (Ex. 32:1-6)

1

When the people saw how long it was taking  
Moses to come back down the mountain,  
they gathered around Aaron.

“Come on,” they said,  
“make us some gods who can lead us.  
We don’t know what happened  
to this fellow Moses,  
who brought us here from the land of Egypt.”

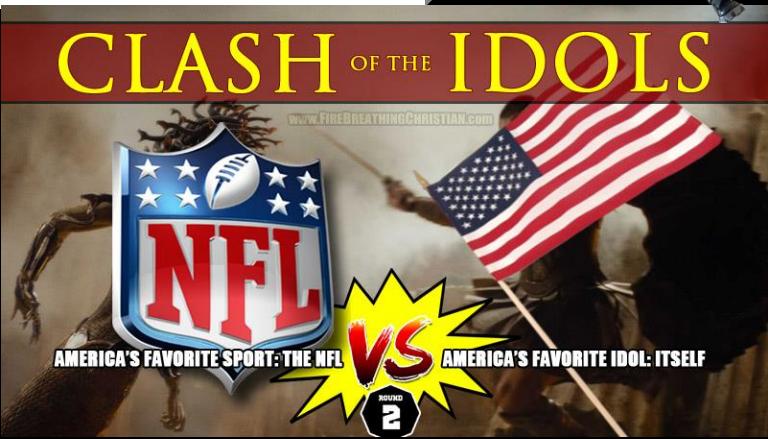
- 
- A painting of a man with a long white beard and a golden crown, holding a staff with a golden ring.
- 2 So Aaron said,  
“Take the gold rings from the ears of your wives  
and sons and daughters, and bring them to me.”
- 3 All the people took the gold rings from their  
ears and brought them to Aaron.
- 4 Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down,  
and molded it into the shape of a calf.  
When the people saw it, they exclaimed,  
“O Israel, these are the gods who brought you  
out of the land of Egypt!”

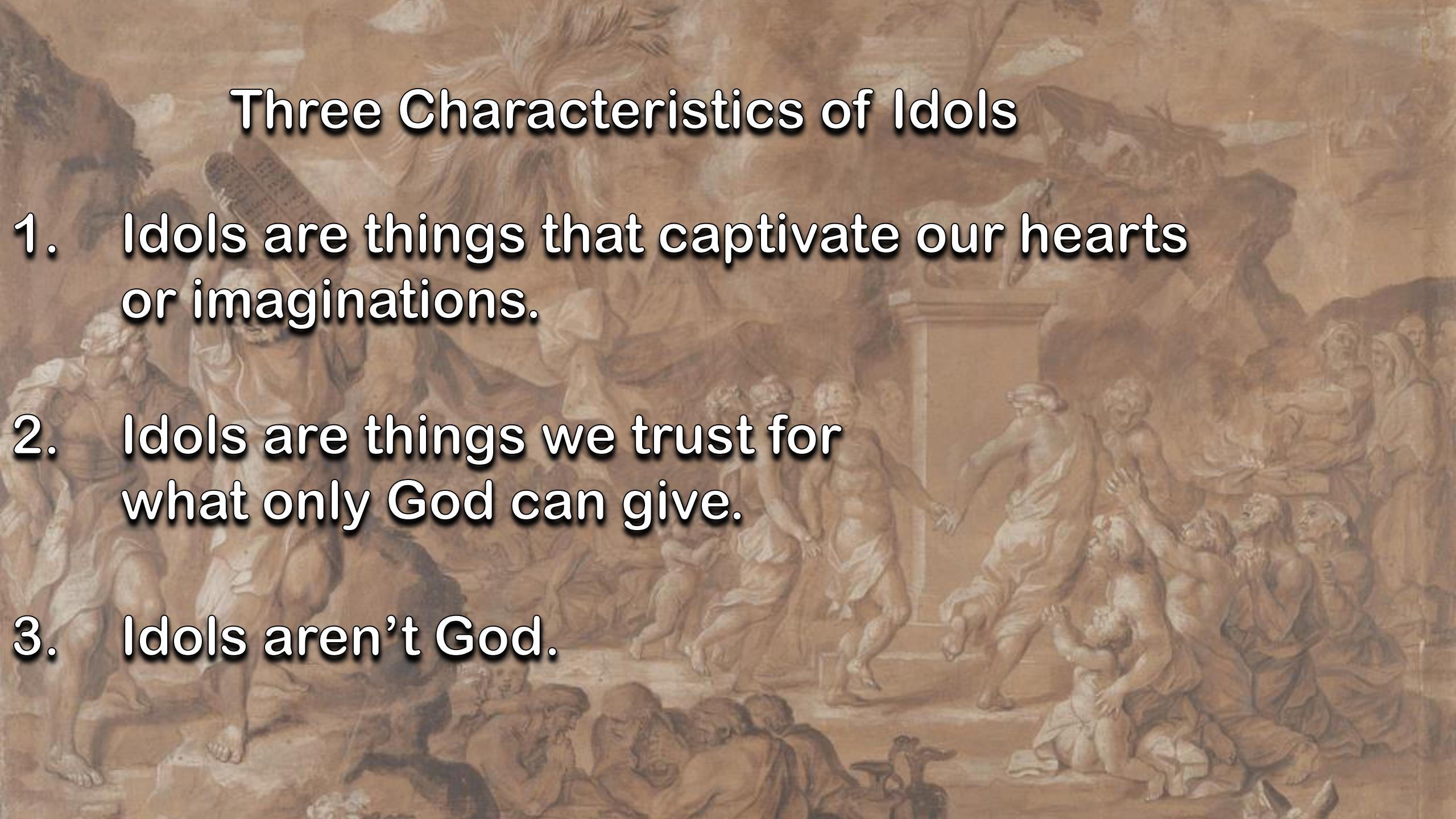
A painting depicting the Israelites gathered around a golden calf altar in the desert. In the center, a large golden calf sits on a stone altar. Aaron stands behind it, holding a golden rod. The people are shown in the background, some with hands raised in worship. The scene is set against a backdrop of rocky mountains under a cloudy sky.

5 Aaron saw how excited the people were,  
so he built an altar in front of the calf.  
Then he announced,  
“Tomorrow will be a festival to the LORD!”

6 The people got up early the next morning  
to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings.  
After this, they celebrated with feasting and  
drinking, and they indulged in pagan revelry.

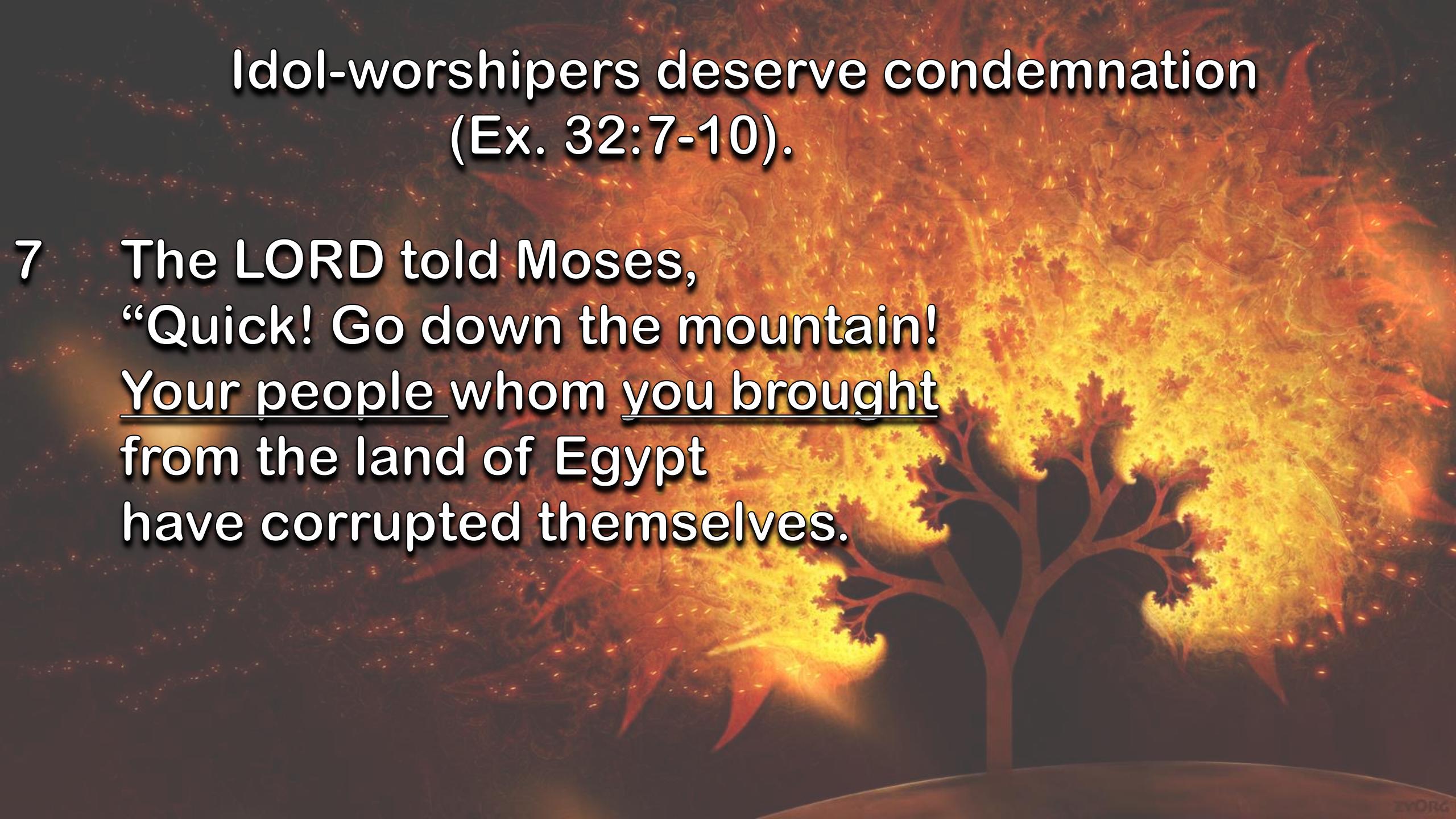
# Idols





## **Three Characteristics of Idols**

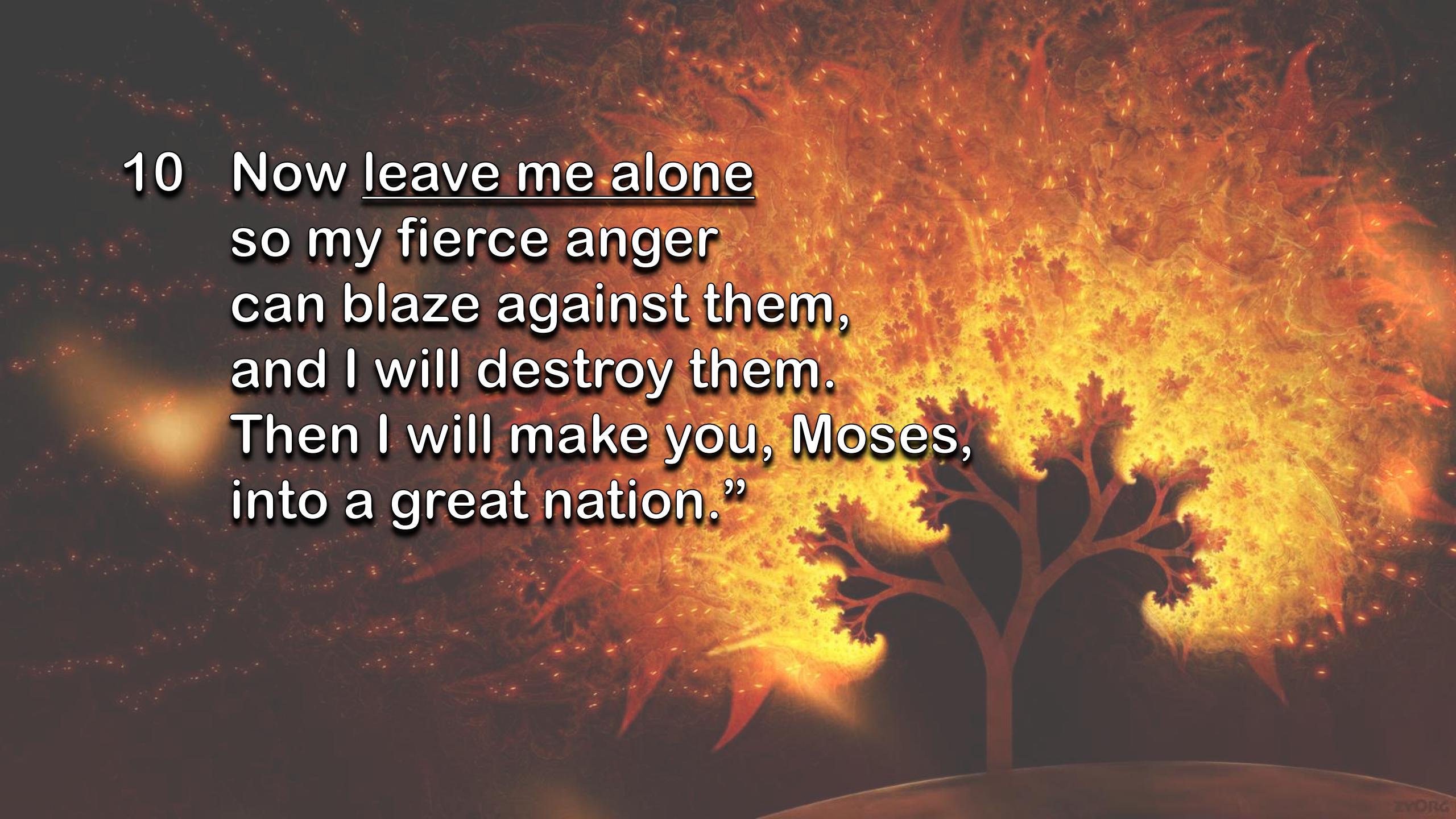
- 1. Idols are things that captivate our hearts or imaginations.**
- 2. Idols are things we trust for what only God can give.**
- 3. Idols aren't God.**



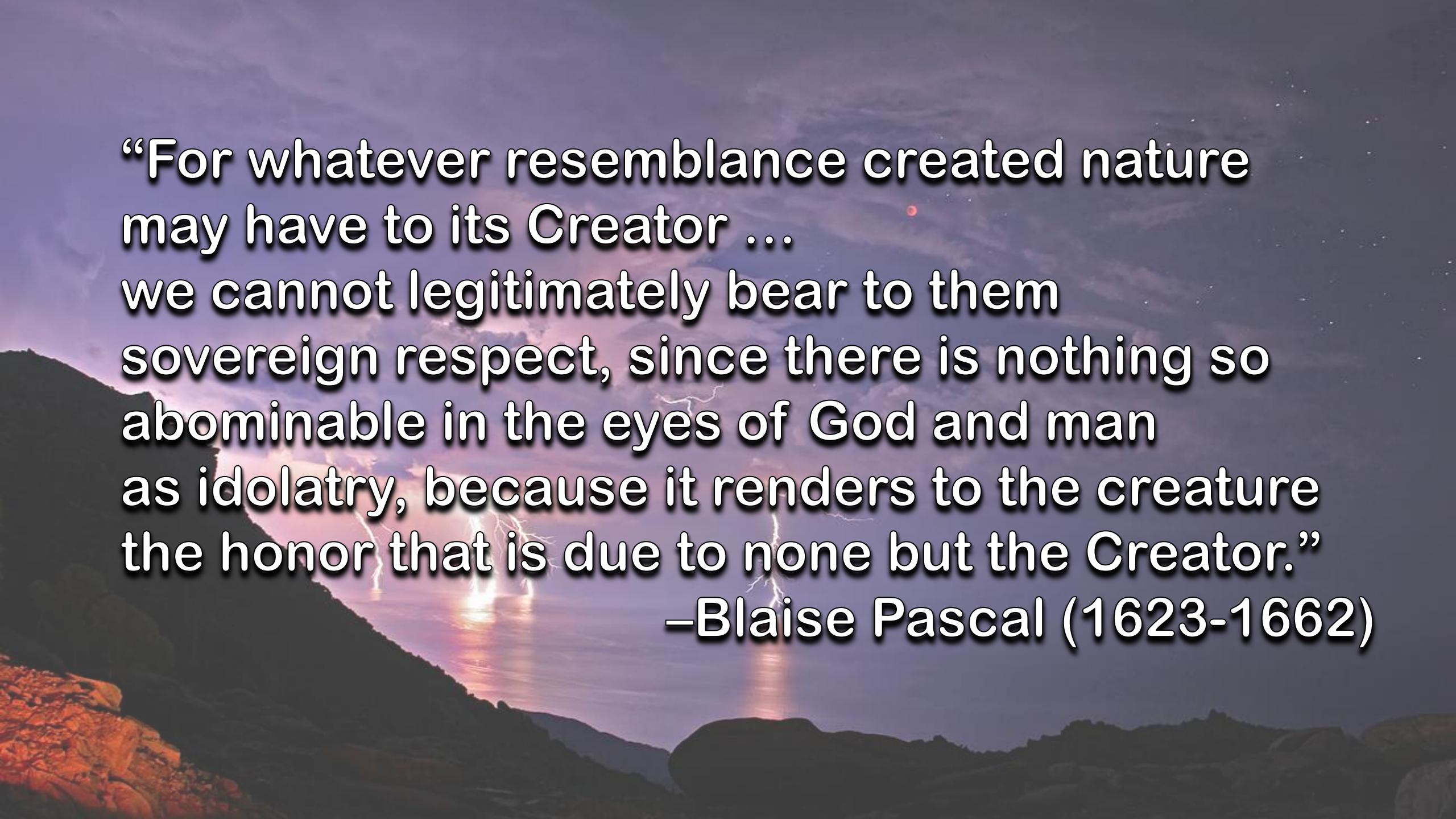
**Idol-worshipers deserve condemnation  
(Ex. 32:7-10).**

**7** The LORD told Moses,  
“Quick! Go down the mountain!  
Your people whom you brought  
from the land of Egypt  
have corrupted themselves.

- 
- 8 How quickly they have turned away  
from the way I commanded them to live!  
They have melted down gold and made a calf,  
and they have bowed down and sacrificed to it.  
They are saying, ‘These are your gods, O Israel,  
who brought you out of the land of Egypt.’ ”
- 9 Then the LORD said,  
“I have seen how stubborn and rebellious  
these people are.



10 Now leave me alone  
so my fierce anger  
can blaze against them,  
and I will destroy them.  
Then I will make you, Moses,  
into a great nation.”

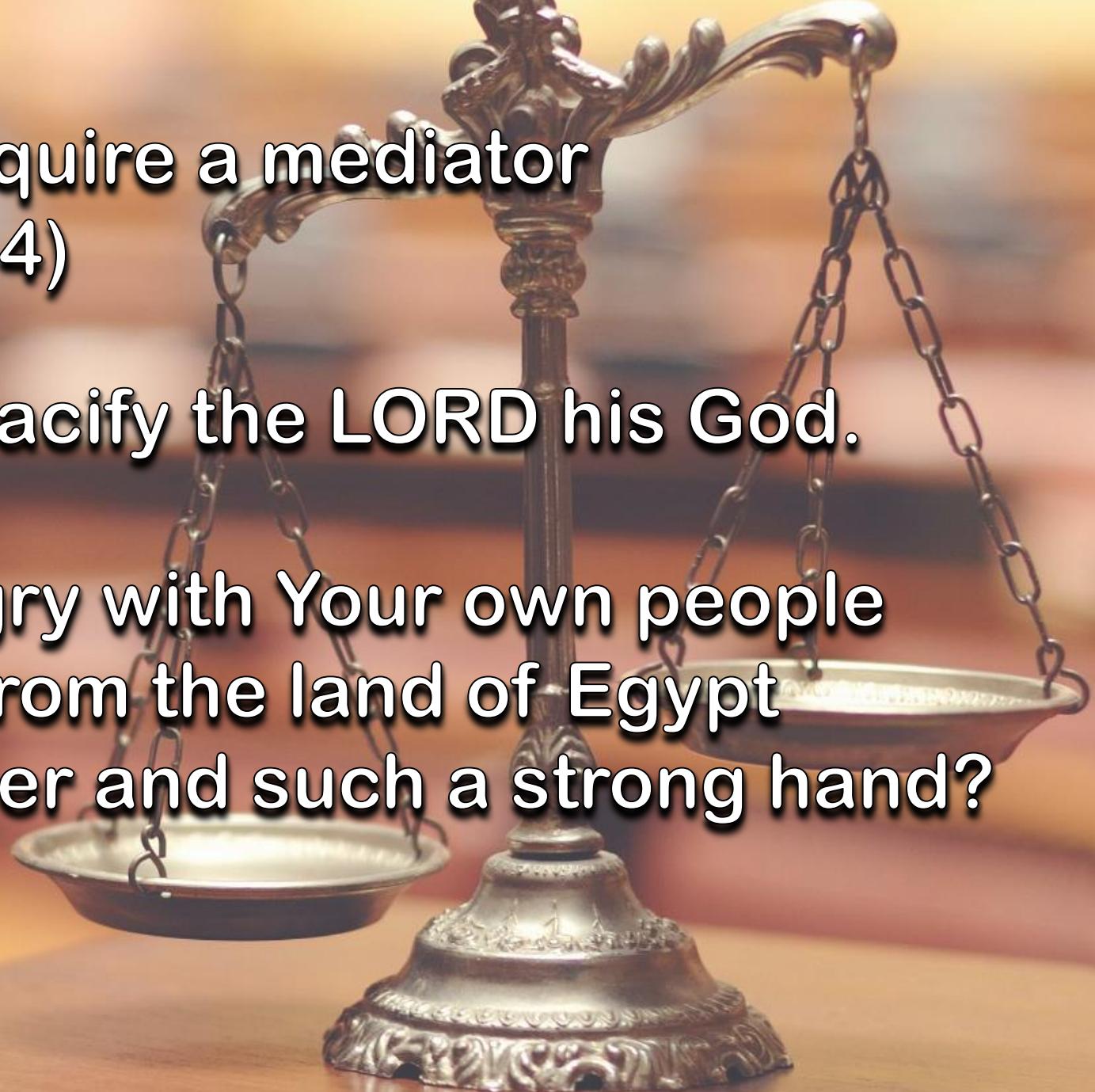


“For whatever resemblance created nature  
may have to its Creator ...  
we cannot legitimately bear to them  
sovereign respect, since there is nothing so  
abominable in the eyes of God and man  
as idolatry, because it renders to the creature  
the honor that is due to none but the Creator.”

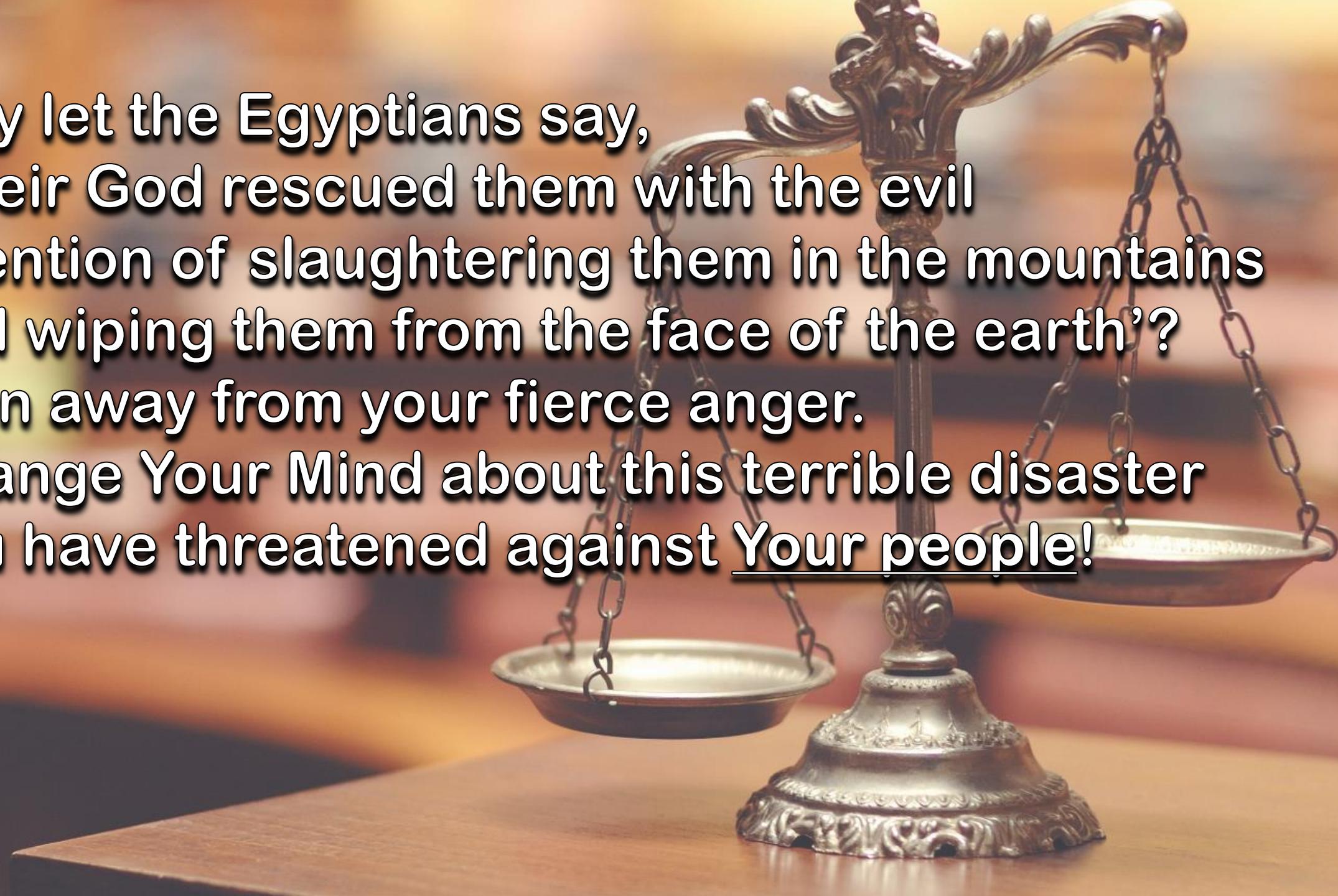
—Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)

**Idol-worshipers require a mediator  
(Ex. 32:11-14)**

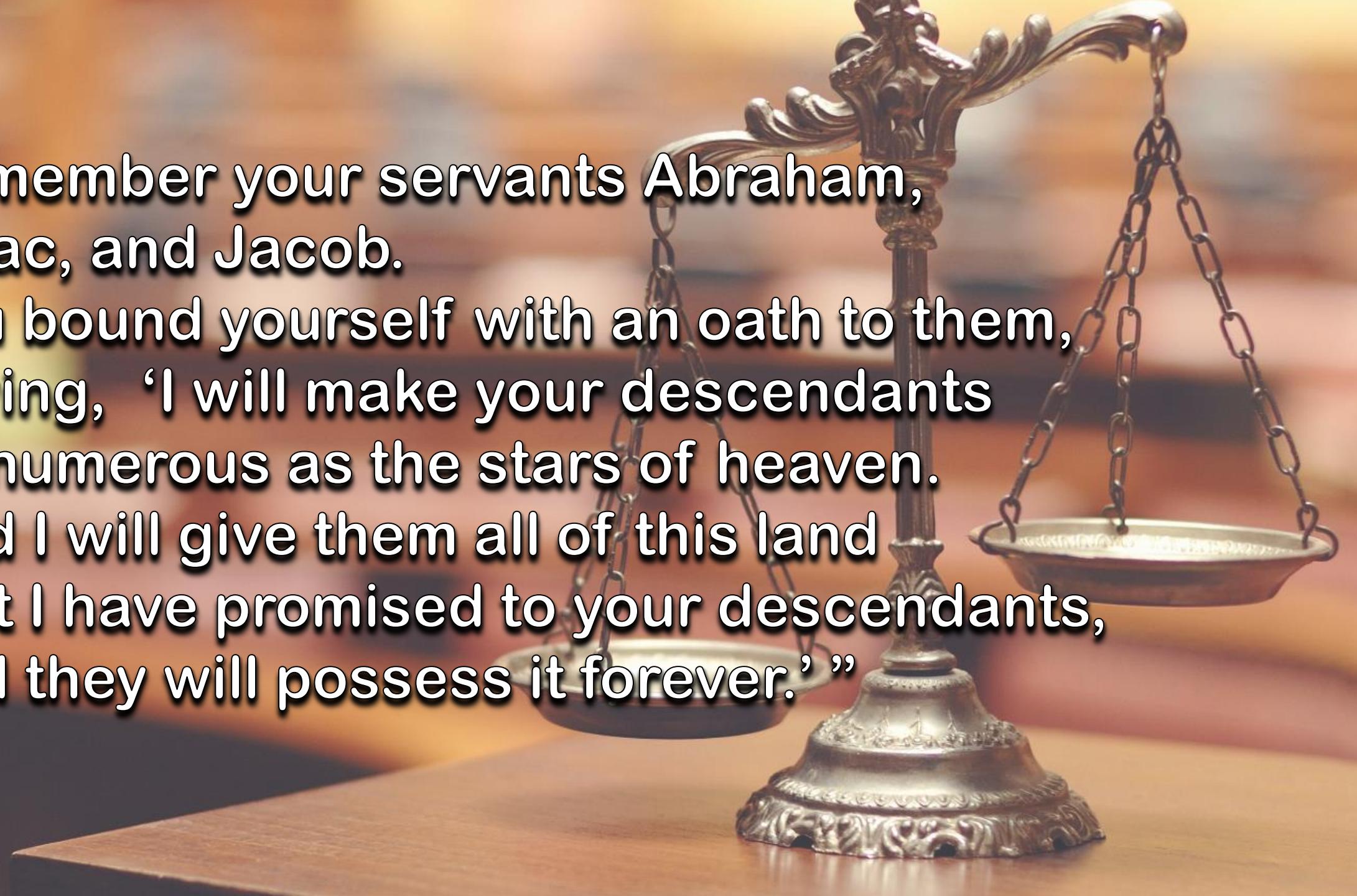
11 But Moses tried to pacify the LORD his God.  
“O LORD!” he said.  
“Why are you so angry with Your own people  
whom You brought from the land of Egypt  
with such great power and such a strong hand?



**12 Why let the Egyptians say,  
‘Their God rescued them with the evil  
intention of slaughtering them in the mountains  
and wiping them from the face of the earth’?  
Turn away from your fierce anger.  
Change Your Mind about this terrible disaster  
You have threatened against Your people!**



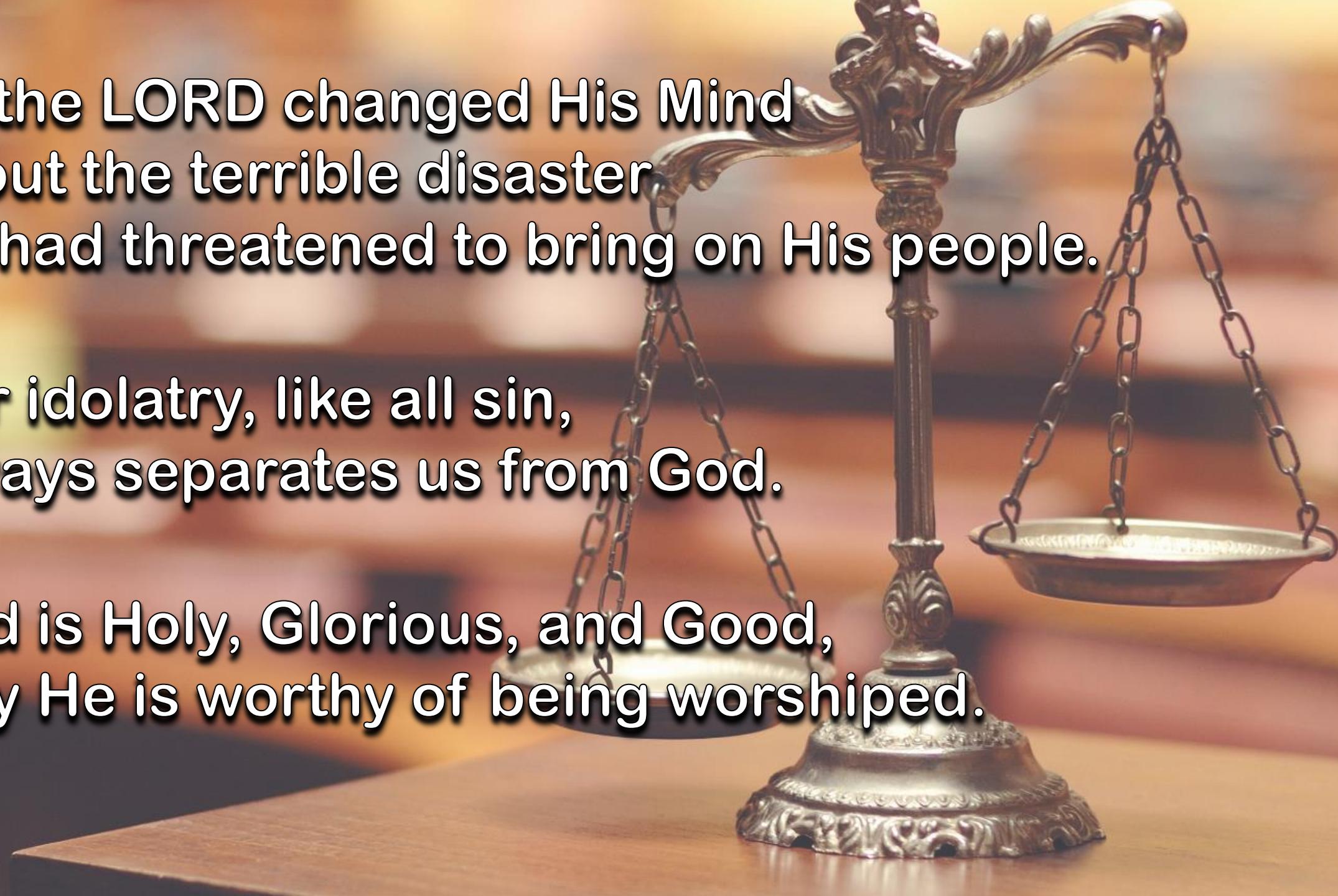
**13 Remember your servants Abraham,  
Isaac, and Jacob.  
You bound yourself with an oath to them,  
saying, ‘I will make your descendants  
as numerous as the stars of heaven.  
And I will give them all of this land  
that I have promised to your descendants,  
and they will possess it forever.’ ”**



**14 So the LORD changed His Mind  
about the terrible disaster  
He had threatened to bring on His people.**

**Our idolatry, like all sin,  
always separates us from God.**

**God is Holy, Glorious, and Good,  
only He is worthy of being worshiped.**



# Jesus is the Only Mediator between God & Man

1 Timothy 2:3-6

- 3 This is good and pleases God our Savior,  
4 who wants everyone to be saved  
and to understand the truth.
- 5 For, there is one God and one Mediator  
who can reconcile God and humanity—  
the man Christ Jesus.
- 6 He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone.  
This is the message God gave to the world  
at just the right time.

## Romans 8:34

34 Who then will condemn us?  
No one—for Christ Jesus died for us  
and was raised to life for us,  
& He is sitting in the place of honor  
at God's Right Hand, pleading for us.

## **Hebrews 7:25**

**25 Therefore He is able, once and forever,  
to save those who come to God through Him.  
He lives forever to intercede with God  
on their behalf.**

## **Hebrews 9:15**

**15 That is why He is the One who mediates  
a new covenant between God and people,  
so that all who are called can receive  
the eternal inheritance God has promised them.  
For Christ died to set them free  
from the penalty of the sins they had committed  
under that first covenant.**

**Christ is our Great High Priest.  
Jesus accomplishes  
the work of reconciling us to God.  
He is the One who  
intercedes for us before the Father  
and prays for us to remain faithful.**