

Scripture Readings

*The Old Testament Scripture reading is received from **Exodus** chapter **32** verses **1-14**, which can be found on page **96** in the **old testament** of your pew bible.*

¹When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they confronted Aaron and said to him, 'Come, make us gods to go ahead of us. As for this fellow Moses, who brought us up from Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.' Aaron answered them, 'Strip the gold rings from the ears of your wives and daughters, and bring them to me.' So all the people stripped themselves of their gold earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took them out of their hands, cast the metal in a mould, and made it into the image of a bull-calf. 'These', he said, 'are your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from Egypt.' Then Aaron was afraid and built an altar in front of it and issued this proclamation, 'Tomorrow there is to be a pilgrim-feast to the Lord.' Next day the people rose early, offered whole-offerings, and brought shared-offerings. After this they sat down to eat and drink and then gave themselves up to revelry. But the Lord said to Moses, 'Go down at once, for your people, the people you brought up from Egypt, have done a disgraceful thing; so quickly have they turned aside from the way I commanded them. They have made themselves an image of a bull-calf, they have prostrated themselves before it, sacrificed to it and said, "These are your gods, O Israel, that brought you up from Egypt."' So the Lord said to Moses, 'I have considered this people, and I see that they are a stubborn people. Now let me alone to vent my anger upon them, so that I may put an end to them and make a great

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nation spring from you.’ But Moses set himself to placate the Lord his God: ‘O Lord,’ he said, ‘why shouldst thou vent thy anger upon thy people, whom thou didst bring out of Egypt with great power and a strong hand? Why let the Egyptians say, “So he meant evil when he took them out, to kill them in the mountains and wipe them off the face of the earth”? Turn from thy anger, and think better of the evil thou dost intend against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou didst swear by thy own self: “I will make your posterity countless as the stars in the sky, and all this land, of which I have spoken, I will give to them, and they shall possess it for ever.”’ So the Lord relented, and spared his people the evil with which he had threatened them.

*The New Testament Scripture reading is received from **Luke** chapter **14** verses **15-24**, which can be found on page **94** in the **new testament** of your pew bible...*

¹⁵One of the company, after hearing all this, said to him, ‘Happy the man who shall sit at the feast in the kingdom of God!’ Jesus answered, ‘A man was giving a big dinner party and had sent out many invitations. At dinnertime he sent his servant with a message for his guests, “Please come, everything is now ready.” They began one and all to excuse themselves. The first said, “I have bought a piece of land, and I must go and look over it; please accept my apologies.” The second said, “I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am on my way to try them out; please accept my apologies.” The next said, “I have just got married and for that reason I cannot come.” When the servant came back he reported this to his master. The master of the house was angry and said to him, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town, and bring me in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.” The servant said, “Sir, your orders have

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been carried out and there is still room.” The master replied, “Go out on to the highways and along the hedgerows and make them come in; I want my house to be full. I tell you that not one of those who were invited shall taste my banquet.”

May the Lord God help us to apply this scripture in our lives.