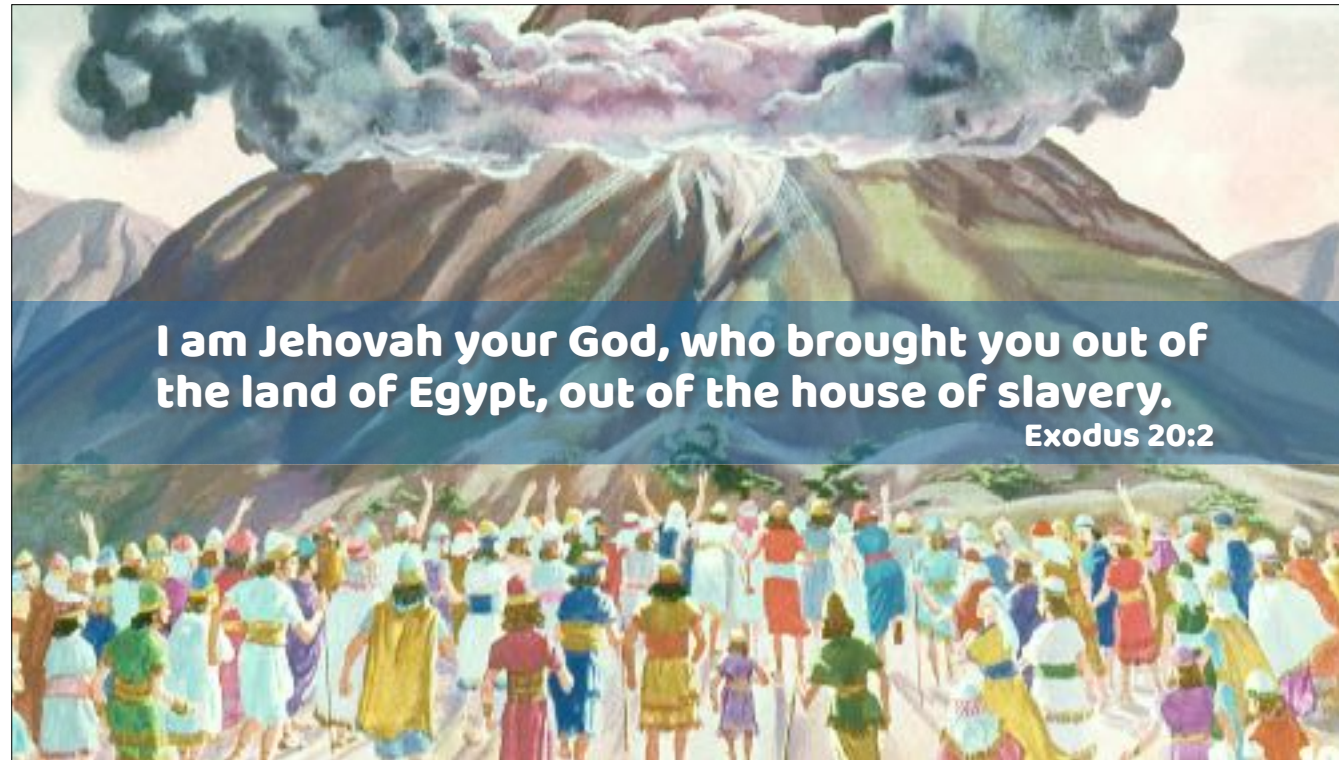
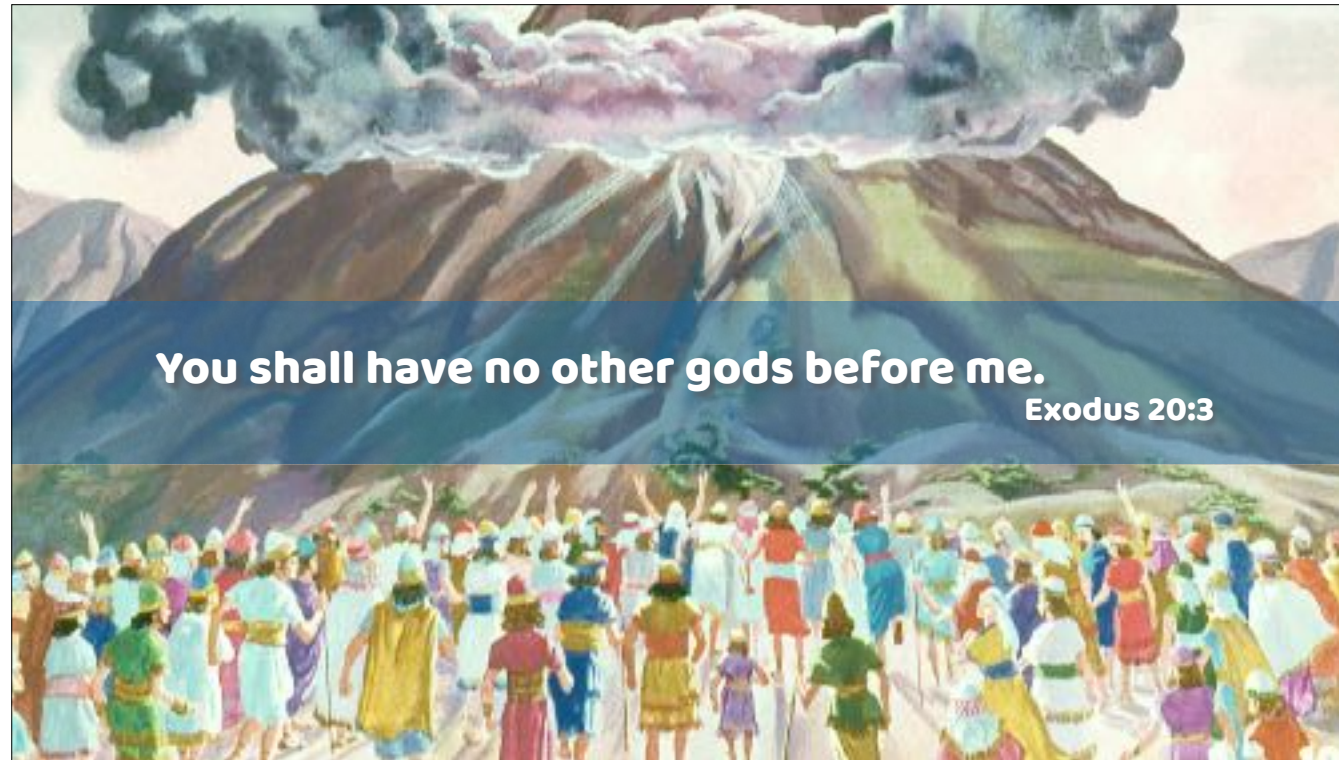


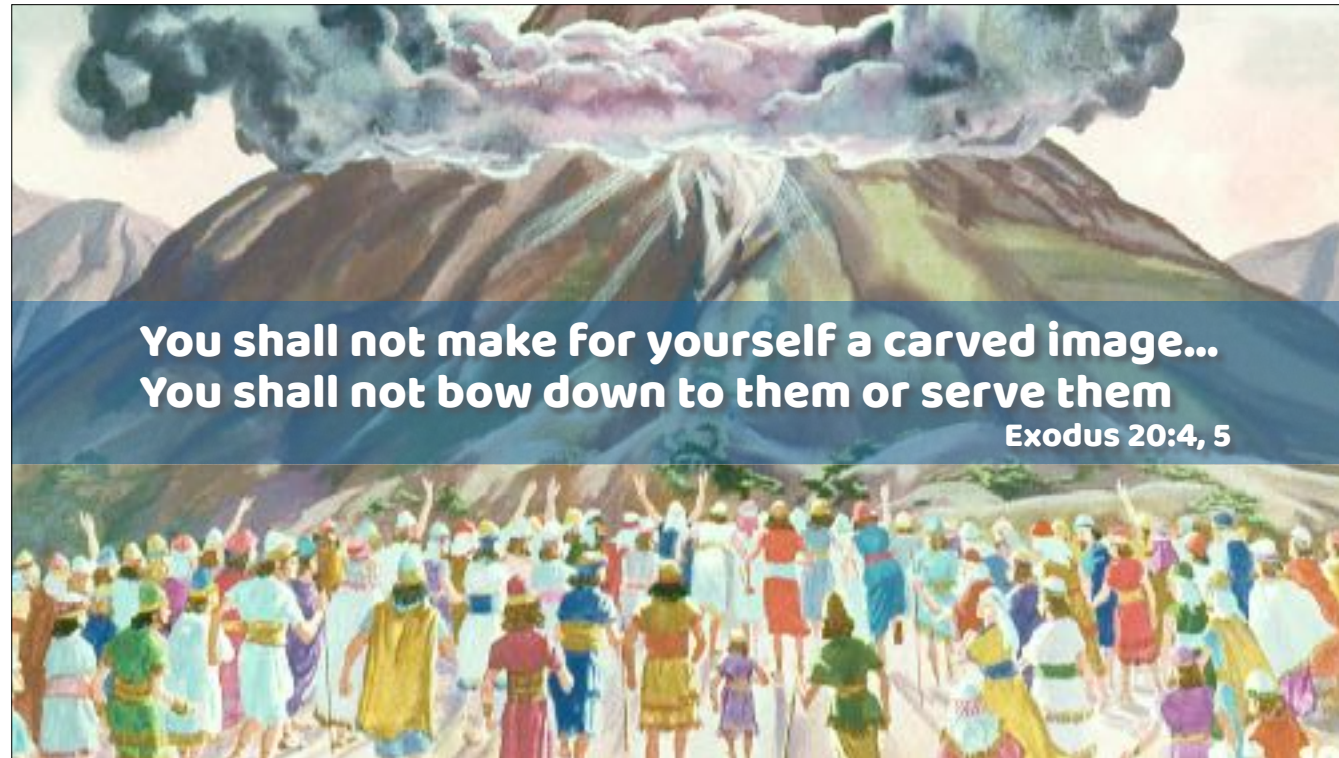
- Nehemiah 9:16-21



- Exodus 20:2 (ESV) 2 “I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.



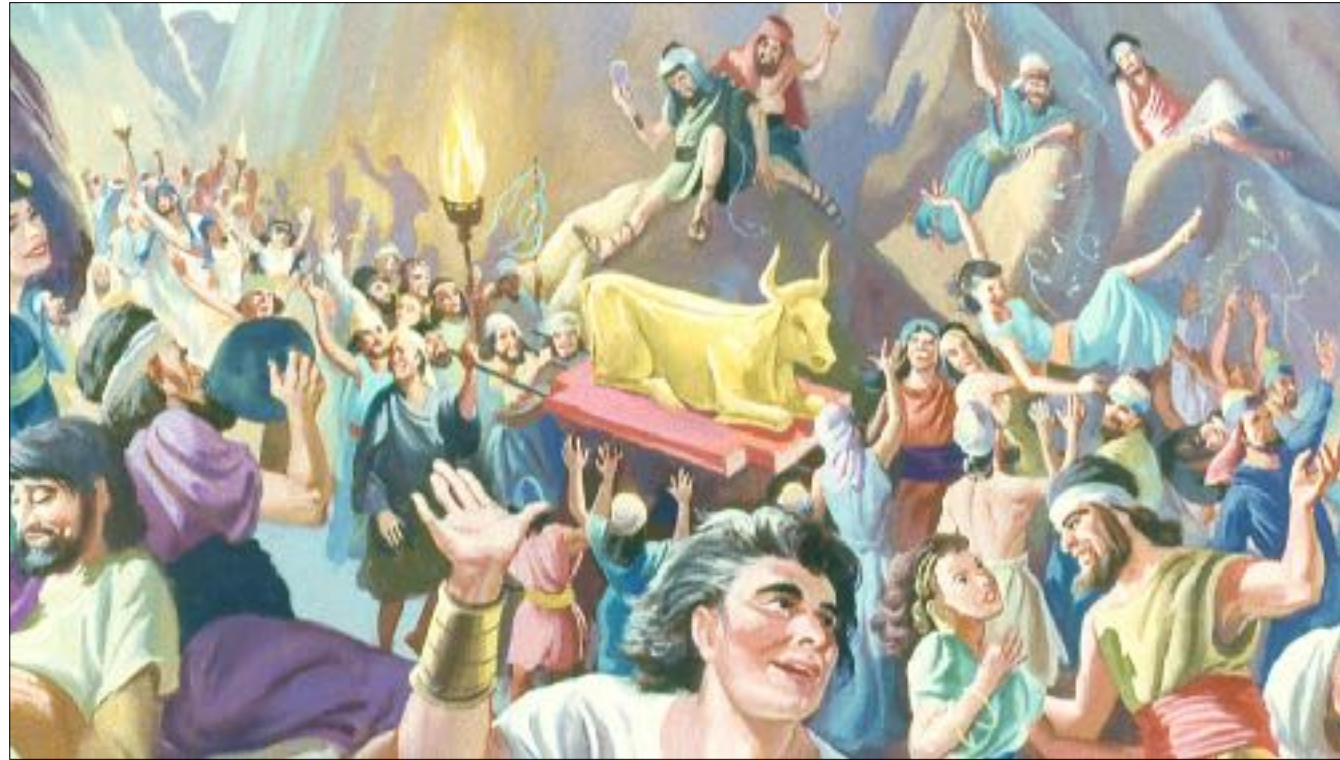
- Exodus 20:3 (ESV) 3 “You shall have no other gods before me.



**You shall not make for yourself a carved image...
You shall not bow down to them or serve them**

Exodus 20:4, 5

- Exodus 20:4-6 (ESV) 4 “You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, 6 but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.



- Exodus 32:1: When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, “Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.

Exodus 32:6



- Exodus 32:6 And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.



- Exodus 32:21: And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought such a great sin upon them?”
- Exodus 32:30: The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”



- 22 And Aaron said, “Let not the anger of my lord burn hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil



- 25 And when Moses saw that the people had broken loose (for Aaron had let them break loose, to the derision of their enemies),
 - NASB: out of control
 - NET: running wild; completely out of control



worshiped metal image

Psalm 106:19

Great Sin

Exodus 32:21, 30

Set on evil

Exodus 32:22

Broken loose

Exodus 32:22

- Psalms 106:19-23 (ESV) 19 They made a calf in Horeb and worshiped a metal image.
- Ex. 32: 31 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold.



- 20 They exchanged the glory of God for the image of an ox that eats grass.



- 21 They forgot God, their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt, 22 wondrous works in the land of Ham, and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.



- Nehemiah 9:16-21 (ESV) 16 “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.



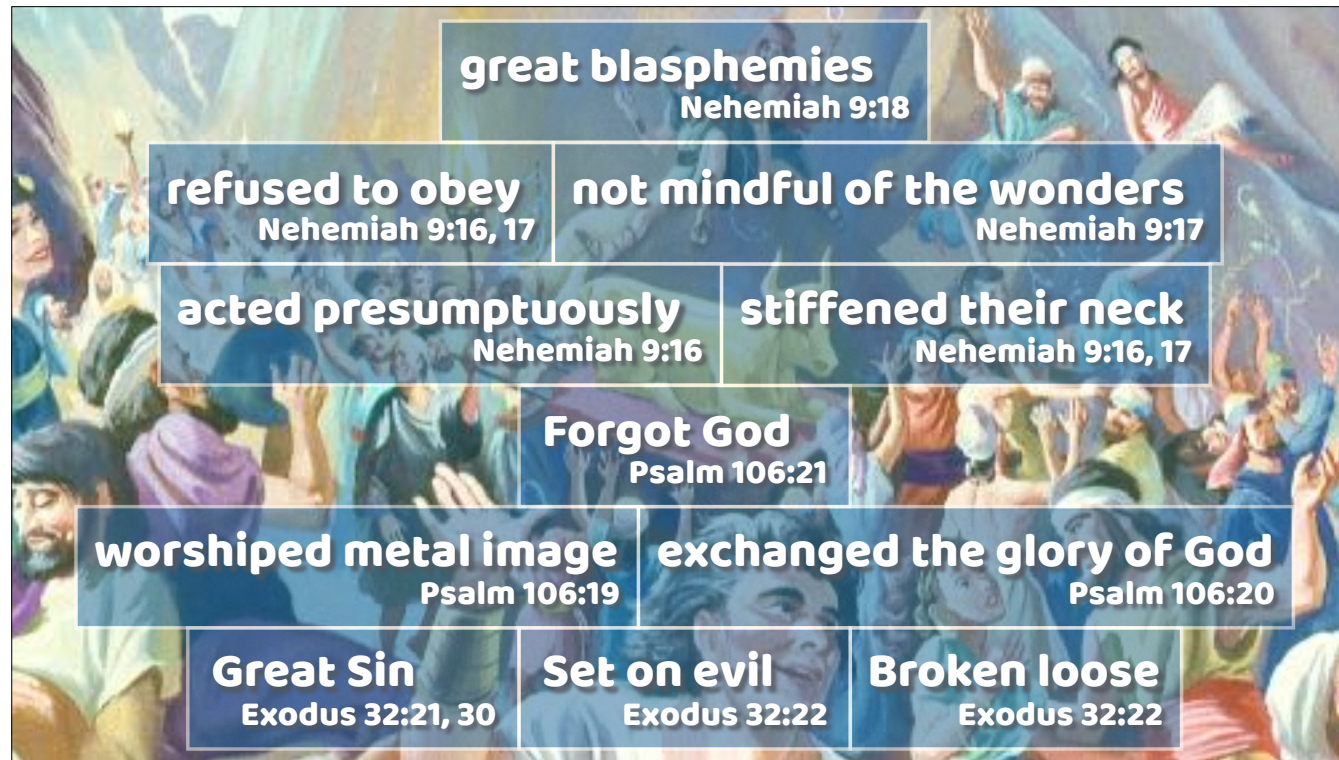
- Nehemiah 9:16-21 (ESV) 16 “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.
- 17: but they stiffened their neck



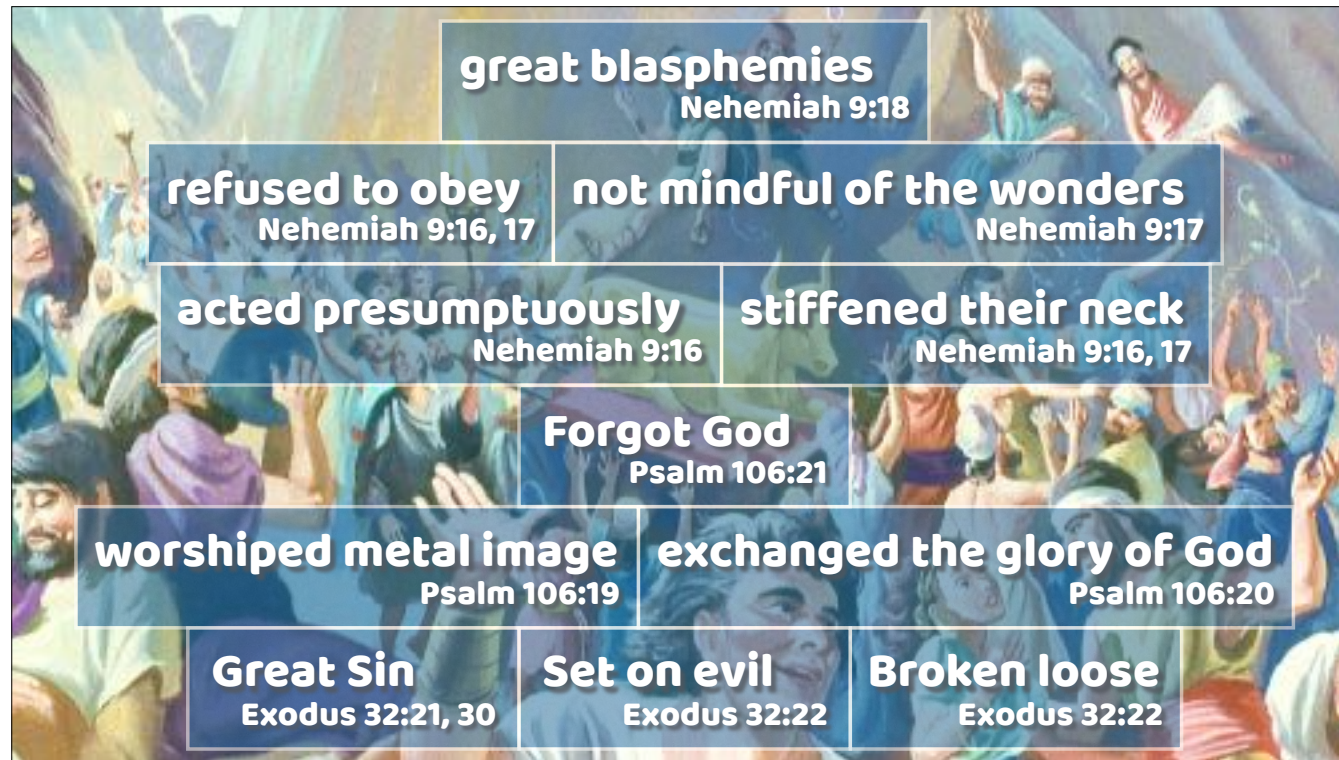
- Nehemiah 9:16-21 (ESV) 16 “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments.
- 17 They refused to obey



- 17: and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them,



- 18 Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies,
 - contempt
 - disrespecting rejection
 - KJV, ASV: provocations



- The sins of Israel are grievous and saddening.
 - Thoughts:
 - Forgot God, not mindful of wonders, set on evil, presumptuously
 - Actions:
 - no restraint, stiff necked, not obey, blasphemy
- GREAT SIN
- How does God respond to their attitudes and sin?



- Psalm 106:23 Therefore he said he would destroy them— had not Moses, his chosen one, stood in the breach before him, to turn away his wrath from destroying them.
- Exodus 32:34: 34 But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; behold, my angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit, I will visit their sin upon them.”



- Exodus 32:27: 27 And he said to them, “Thus says the Lord God of Israel, ‘Put your sword on your side each of you, and go to and fro from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill his brother and his companion and his neighbor.’”
- 33 But the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book.
- 35 Then the Lord sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf, the one that Aaron made.



- Exodus 32:30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. And now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.”
- 32 But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.”



- Nehemiah 9:16-21
- 17: But you are a God ready to forgive,
 - gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love



- 17 and did not forsake them.
- 19 you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness



- Nehemiah 9:16-21 (ESV) 16 “But they and our fathers acted presumptuously and stiffened their neck and did not obey your commandments. 17 They refused to obey and were not mindful of the wonders that you performed among them, but they stiffened their neck and appointed a leader to return to their slavery in Egypt. But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and did not forsake them. 18 Even when they had made for themselves a golden calf and said, ‘This is your God who brought you up out of Egypt,’ and had committed great blasphemies, 19 you in your great mercies did not forsake them in the wilderness. The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. 20 You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. 21 Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.



- 19: The pillar of cloud to lead them in the way did not depart from them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night to light for them the way by which they should go. 20 You gave your good Spirit to instruct them and did not withhold your manna from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst. 21 Forty years you sustained them in the wilderness, and they lacked nothing. Their clothes did not wear out and their feet did not swell.



- God's forgiveness is greater than our great sin.
- He does not forsake. He is merciful.
- He leads and instructs us.
- He cares for us, feeds us.
- He sustains us.
- He kept at it for years!



- This needs to challenge our concepts of what is involved in truly forgiving
- God has done this for you and I.
- Colossians 3:13: forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.



- Great sins may lead to me being angry.
- But Great Mercy leads me to Forgive.
- And Forgiveness means that I must not forsake the one who wronged me.

Forgive and Do Not Forsake



- Why are we tempted to forgive and then abandon?
 - Self-protection: separate, distance, avoid
 - Suspicious: we don't want to give another opportunity for them to hurt us.
 - They don't Deserve our Kindness
 - Sin was to great, to hurtful
 - They haven't repented
- Stop making excuses, forgive like our Father does.



- Forgive and forget
 - Which we misunderstand to mean that we forget that anything ever happened.
 - But we aren't made that way.
 - What we must choose to do is treat them as if they did nothing wrong.



- Forgiveness means that I choose to help the one who has wronged me.
 - God lead them in the right way (lead to Father)
 - God instructed with Spirit (Teach the Word)
 - God cared for their real needs (active kindness)
 - God sustained them (meaningful help)
 - He didn't quit (40 years): don't give up on them.
 - Even though their rebellions were often repeated.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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God... Did Not Forsake Them

Nehemiah 9:17

Synopsis: When Israel committed a great sin against God, not only did He forgive them he also refused to forsake them in the wilderness. This reminds us that when we forgive others, there is still work to be done to help the forgiven one.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”