

The Biblical Examiner

An Examination of Biblical Precepts Involved in Issues at Hand

A Publication of the Linden Baptist Church [Not SB], P.O. Box 6 (30 Plum St), Linden Indiana 47955

May 1993

Permission to reprint granted.

God's Glory The Development of Sin Exodus 32:1-7

While Moses was 40 days on the mount before the Lord, the people below built a calf to represent the Lord and to go before them as the Lord had done. In v. 7, the Lord told Moses to go down to the people who had *corrupted themselves* (Ja 1:14).

Although He could have, the Lord did not send Moses down in time to prevent the sin; in His sovereignty, God had a purpose in allowing the sin to mature. Thus, the Sovereign God of the Universe, Who can stop sin at any time, is the One allowing sin to mature. Furthermore, no one can fault His actions, Rom 9:15ff (19, 20). The world is not out of control today any more than it was when Moses was on the mount and the people were building the calf. The Lord not only can restrain sin as He pleases, but He also makes sin serviceable to the praise of His Own glory. Hence, all things move according to God's predetermined counsel to fulfill His perfect will. (Cf. Acts 2:23; 4:28 & Rev 17:17. Also, Rom 11:36; 2 Cor 4:15; 1 Pe 2:9; 1 Pe 4:11; Rev 4:10, 11; 19:6, *Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.*)

Though this seems to be a strange thought from an idolatrous situation, let us look at the good from the calf. There were several things accomplished for God's glory when He permitted the golden calf:

I. God brought Israel here to prove them: Exo 20:18-21.

Here at the foot of the mount, the Lord proved their heart. He proved that: A) their words did not reflect what was in their heart; B) the law could not change the heart; C) their confidence in God's servant, Moses, was very superficial; D) God's people were still Egyptian at heart: "Circumstances do not make us what we are, they reveal what we are," and E) God (and only God) can take hardened, Egypt-filled sinners and make of them a people that will serve Him and bring glory to His name. Israel was thus an unmistakable picture of the Church, Eph 3:8-12.

The Lord, by His sovereign grace, takes whom He will, makes of them what He will, and no one will say to Him, *What doest thou?* (Dan 4:35; cf. Ro 11:33, 36; 1 Co 2:16.)

Assuredly, the Lord will prove what His people are made of, the proof will be before the whole world and the test will come at the most unexpected time. He will prove a number of things, eg. to whom is our loyalty, God or man? what is our attitude toward His law and toward

Dr. Paul Cates

reports to prison June 14th. As you know, the state tried to force a religious issue. If he had been found guilty as charged, any ministry refusing to come under state licensure laws would be considered a "scam," and all the people the ministry worked with considered "vulnerable victims." Only because the judge intervened was the prosecute restricted in obtaining convictions against Dr. Cates. I believe the final guilt was 4 counts of falsifying forms in a government insurance program. Strangely, Dr Cates filled out the forms as he was instructed by a government agent. At the time, Dr. Cates protested that he was being instructed wrongly in filling out of the forms, but the agent assured him that that was the way it was done. Thus, he is serving time for falsifying insurance forms (only amounting to around \$17,000. The government spent about 1.5 mil to bring him to trial).

His new address is: Dr. Paul Cates-12716074, FCI-Manchester, PO Box 7, Rt 8, Suite 207, Manchester Ky, 40962. If you can help with his wife's support: Mrs. Cates, Rt 2, Box 61A, Poplar Creek, Tn 37840. Make check out to her. [615-435-6185, 6739. □

Dr. Greg Dixon

was ordered to appear in Federal court, Hammond Indiana, Wednesday, June 9, 1:30 PM, to show cause why he should not be held in contempt of court for not turning over church records of an insurance transaction from 1984 (which he no longer has). **NOTE that the issue is over Church Records!** Does the state have the Biblical authority to demand church records?

At his appearance, Dr. Dixon made it clear that he was not appearing by the state's order, but by Divine Grace and special appearance. Judge Rudy Lozano stated that his court (UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA, HAMMOND DIVISION) was an Article 3 (Constitutional) court rather than Article 1 (Martial law) court. However, the judge then proceeded to hold Dr. Dixon in contempt for not abiding by Federal Rules of Procedure (ie. Criminal Rule 49 (c)-Martial law!). Dr. Dixon is presently (6/9/93) in custody until he agrees to "show cause" or meet the judge's demands. For further information, contact Indianapolis Baptist Temple, (317) 787-0830.

ACUC

annual national meeting will be at Indianapolis Baptist Temple, Oct 4-6. □

men He has raised up to places of authority? The list of things proved by the Lord is endless, for only the Lord knows what evil lies dormant in the heart of man, Jer 17:9. The Lord knows the heart; He will providentially command situations to *prove* what wickedness lies therein that it might be brought into subjection unto Christ, Jer 17:9; Ph 3:15.

And as pastors, the Lord will bring to pass things in the lives of our people so we will know what areas need strengthening, Eph 4:12.

II. The calf proved to the people their corruption and distance from the Lord's demands upon them. Moses will return and give a great many *ordinances* concerning the tabernacle and sacrifices. The people will be unable to protest anything in the law, for the memory of the calf and the 3000 people who died will be heavy upon them.

