
AMBASSADORS

Sunday School Class

Exodus 32:1-18

THEME: Here is a picture of
the human condition



What has transpired until now?

Part 1 Verbal

The Lord said to Moses, “Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever.” 19:9

The Lord came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the Lord called Moses to the top of the mountain, 19:20

Then God spoke all these words, ... 20:1 – 23:33 (The Ten Commandments and Ordinances)

Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the Lord and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the Lord has spoken we will do!” 24:3



What has transpired until now?

Part 2 Written

Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord. 24:4

Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!” 24:7

When He had finished speaking with him upon Mount Sinai, He gave Moses the two tablets of the testimony, tablets of stone, written by the finger of God. 31:18



What has transpired until now?

Part 3 Visual

And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 19:17

Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel; and under His feet there appeared to be a pavement of sapphire, as clear as the sky itself. 24:9-10

And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a consuming fire on the mountain top. Moses entered the midst of the cloud as he went up to the mountain; and Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. 24:17-18



Where Is Moses now?

- With God on the mountain ↑

Where is Joshua?

- On the mountain near Moses ↘

Where are the elders?

- At a distance in the camp ↓

Where are Aaron and Hur?

- At a distance in the camp ↓

Where are the people?

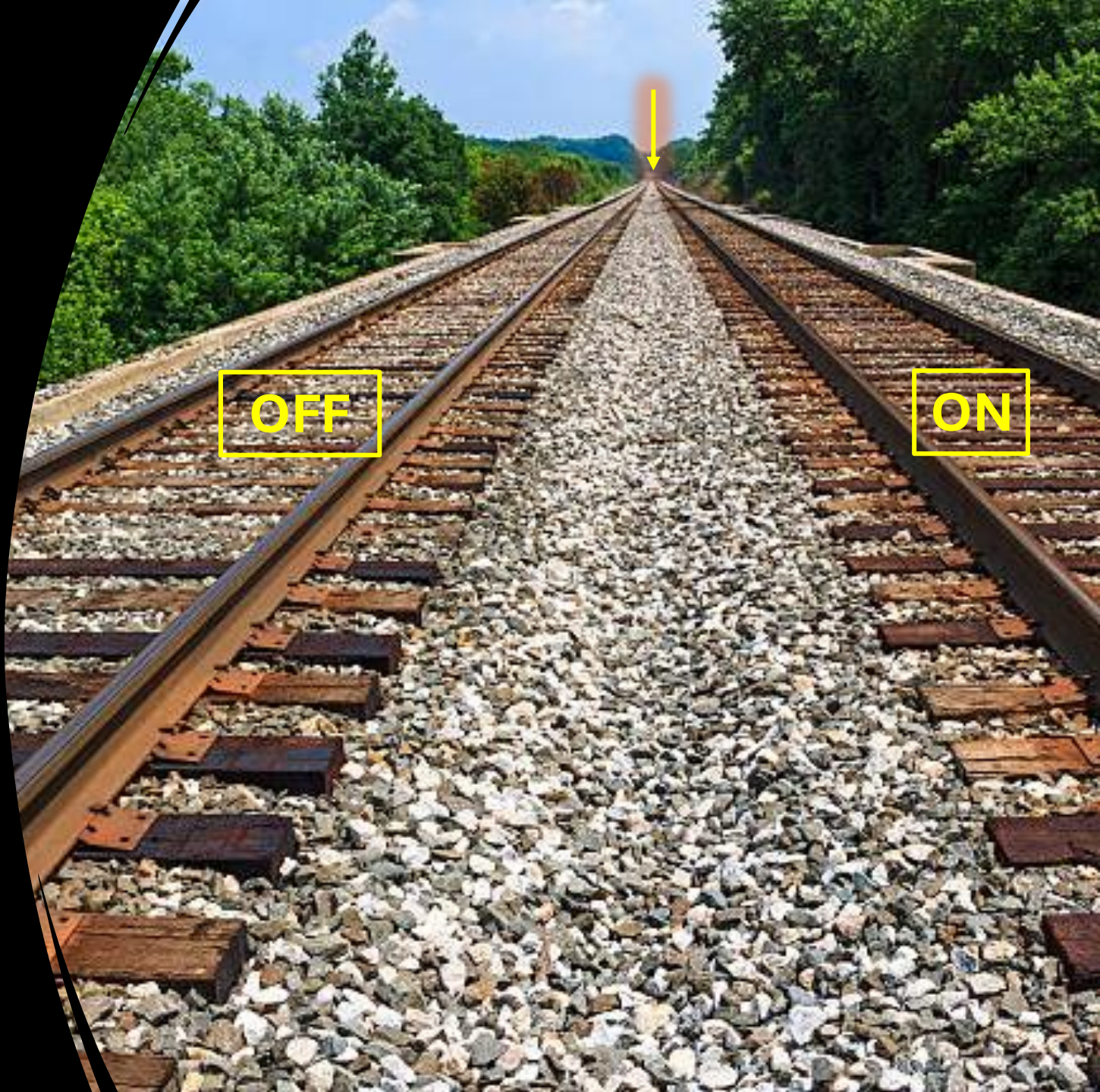
- At a distance in the camp ↓



Exodus 32:1-18

The Scene Changes like a prize-winning book

- The story unfolds with simultaneous action
- Two parallel scenes develop - On and off the mountain
- Then they come together at the end of the passage
- Next week carries on from there in verse 19



Exodus 32:1-18

Theme: Here is a picture of the human condition

OFF the mountain

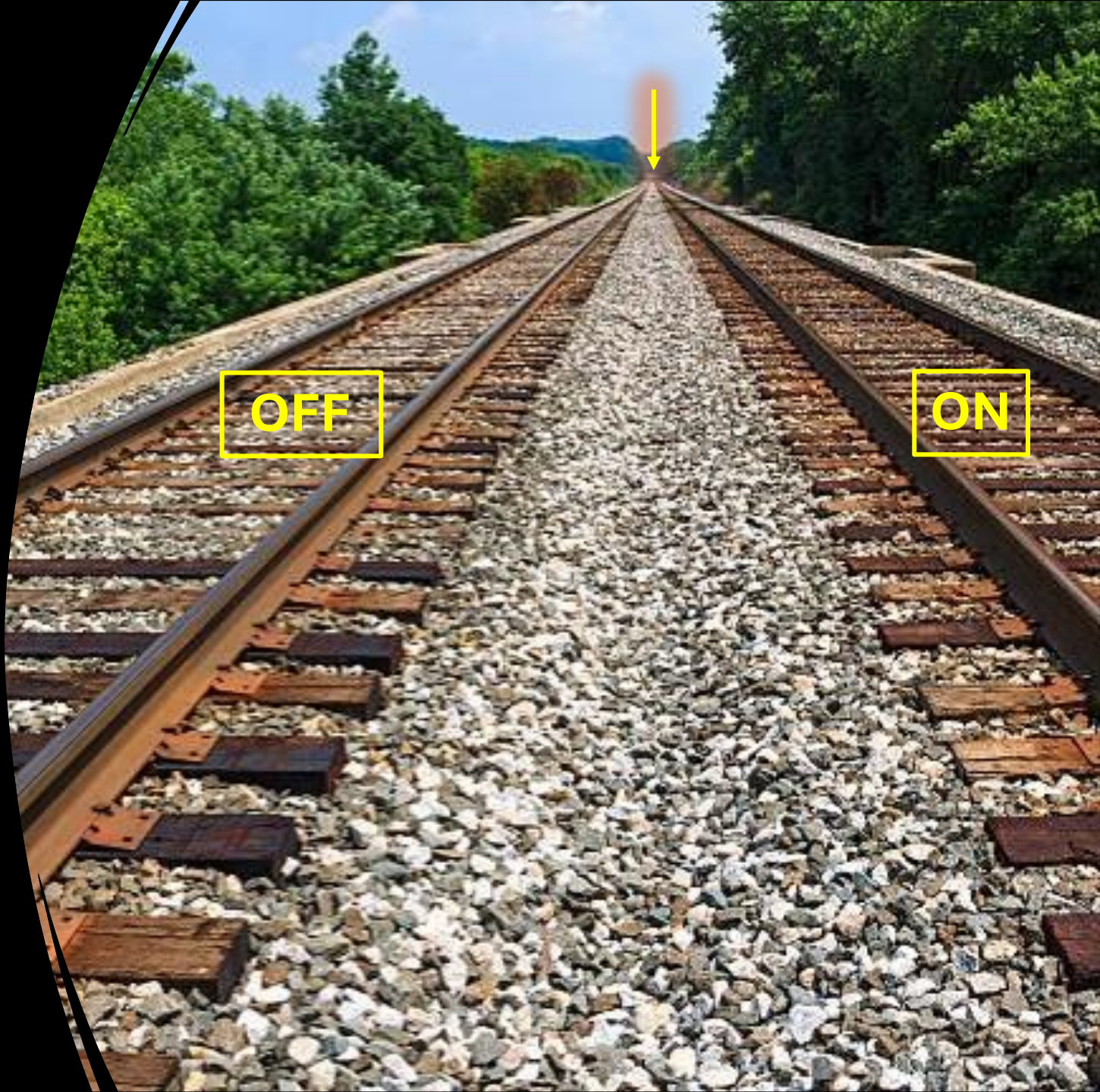
Verses 1-6: The Worship Of God Defiled

ON the mountain

Verses 7-14: Hints Of God's Grace

OFF the mountain

Verses 15-18: The Law is God's Word to man - Moses Goes Down



Verses 1-6: The Worship Of God Defiled

- A. The Israelites already knew the Ten Commandments (Ex 24:3)
- B. They were counting on a man to save them (cp. Ex 20:2)
 - 1) We fall into sin when we fail to trust that God knows what he's doing and try to work things out on our own (Prov 3:5-6)
- C. The contrast between the golden calf and the true worship of God was absolute (Ps 115:4,8; Acts 4:12; John 14:6)
 - 1) They weren't worshipping; they were partying

Verses 7-14: Hints Of God's Grace

D. God laid the blame squarely at Israel's feet

- 1) True worship is according to Scripture (John 4:23-24)
- 2) We want God to teach our minds but not to transform our hearts
(Eph 4:17, Matt 5:8)

E. God threatens (intent) judgement (Rom 2:5, 6:23)

- 1) Moses was a new kind of mediator, a man who asked God to save the ungodly

Verses 7-14: Hints Of God's Grace

E. God threatens judgement (Rom 2:5, 6:23)

2) First, Moses appealed to God's ***fatherly affection*** (Ex 4:22)
(see Ex 14:18, 16:6, 18:10, 19:4; Eph 1:4; John 10:29b)

3) Second, Moses appealed to God's ***past investment*** (Ex 20:2,
Phil. 1:6)

4) Third, Moses appealed to God on the basis of his ***public reputation*** (Ex 7:5)

Verses 7-14: Hints Of God's Grace

E. God threatens judgement (Rom 2:5, 6:23)

5) Fourth, Moses appealed to God on the basis of his ***merciful compassion*** (Ps. 25:6, Neh. 9:31)

6) His final appeal was based on God's ***everlasting covenant*** (Gen 12:1–3, 17:4; Heb. 13:20; 2 Tim. 2:13)

7) Moses was appealing to him on the basis of His love, His plan, His glory, His mercy, and His faithfulness

Verses 7-14: Hints Of God's Grace

F. The message of the gospel is that God has given us a mediator

When He saw our sin, He wanted to save us

So, He sent his Son to intercede for our salvation

John 3:16; Rom. 8:34; John 2:1b, 2a; 1 John 4:9, 10,
14

Verses 15-18: The Law is God's Word To Man - Moses Goes Down

G. The Bible emphasizes that these commandments came from Almighty God.

- 1) The law was never man's word about God, but it is God's Word to man. (2 Tim 3:15-17; Matt 5:17)
- 2) When Moses came down to confront them, it wasn't just Moses they had to deal with. They had to deal with the God who laid down the law.

Verses 15-18: The Law is God's Word To Man - Moses Goes Down

H. What a picture this is of the human condition.

- 1) God has written out his law so we can know how he wants us to live.
- 2) He has sent a Savior to come down and reveal his will.
- 3) And what have we been busy doing? We have been breaking his law left and right, making idols, worshiping our own gods, throwing wild parties, and basically living any way we please.
- 4) Have you been walking with God, or have you been doing your own thing and hoping that God wouldn't notice?

Verses 15-18: The Law is God's Word To Man - Moses Goes Down

- I. Forgiveness removes the guilt of sin but not its consequences. God uses the consequences of our sin in a sanctifying way, teaching us never to do the same thing again. (1 John 1:5-10; 1 Cor 10:6, 11-13)

Next Week

- April 19
- Exodus 32:19-35
- Moses' Anger Towards the Israelites