

1. Review:

- The chiastic structure found in Exodus 25-40 has the Golden Calf (Ch. 32) followed by God's attributes and covenant restoration (Ch. 34) as the turning point.
- God desires to *forgive* sin rather than punish. And to *save* us from a wicked and rebellious life.
 - **Wickedness** – *avon* – (אָוֹן) from a verb meaning to distort, bend, twist, to make crooked.
 - **Rebellion** – *pasha* – (פָּשָׁע) rebel, transgress, revolt.
 - **Sin** – *bata* – (בָּטָא) to miss the mark, miss the way. God wants to be our shepherd and illuminate our path.
- To the Hebrew mind, the **sin (act)** and the **consequence (result)** are intertwined -
 - We are made in the Image of God –
when we worship (act) the one true God, we conform (consequence) to His image.
 - When we worship (sin/act) a false god.
We conform (consequence) to the image of that false god.

2. **Worshiping a False god/idol – Golden Calf:**

- What is a god/idol?
- Why does humanity continually fall into the trap of worshiping false gods?
- How can we understand ourselves to avoid the pitfall of worshiping a false god?

3. **What is a god/idol?**

- An unseen power greater than us that has the ability to deliver us from our present circumstances – usually suffering – or to be called upon to avoid future suffering.
- False gods/idols are often seen as manifest in the natural world (bull, storm, flood, sickness) and can be appeased or called upon through proper worship.
- The "Unknown god" of the Greeks (see Acts 17:23) – just in case you miss one.

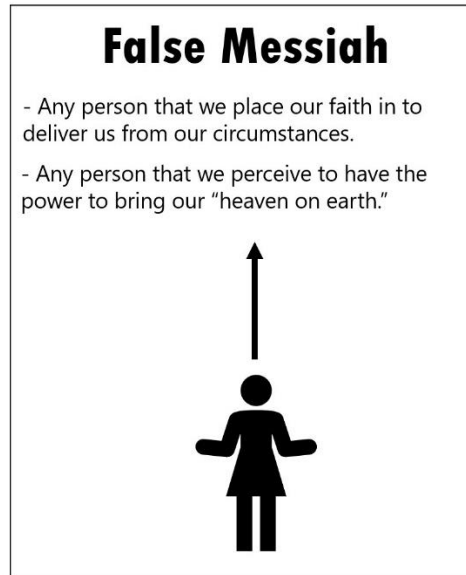
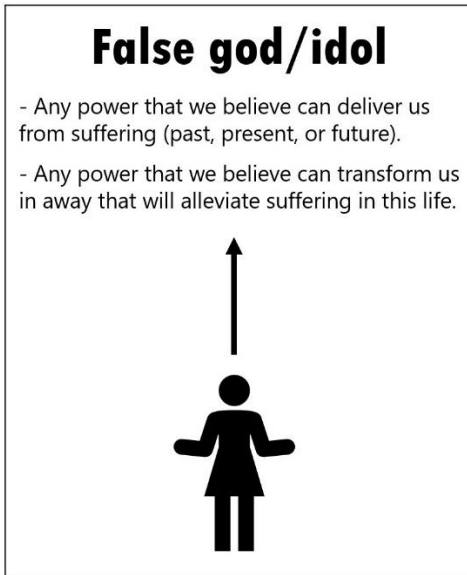
4. **Human Condition tends toward seeking a higher power for deliverance:**

Being (existence) = Limitation	- Without limitation, we would be like God.
Limitation = Suffering	- we experience suffering at the point of our limitation.
Being = Suffering	- the fact that we exist means that we will suffer.

- Suffering and the alleviation of suffering are a constant throughout the Bible.
- **Biblical Solution** – The revelation of the one true God who can provide authentic salvation and the means to transcend suffering.
- God offers a path (way) to transcend rather than eliminate suffering.

5. False god - False Messiah -

- Messiah (or Greek – Christ) – is a person anointed by God for a special purpose.



6. Human beings **conform (consequence)** to whatever they **worship (act)** as a god.

7. Exodus 32 –

- Israelites are not seen as leaving God (the covenant) altogether but looking to a false idol.
- Similarities exist today – modern Christians placing their faith in modern false gods/idols.
- V. 1 – they believe (fear) that Moses has left them.
- Anxiety increases, and, at that moment, they desire to look for a god who will "go before us."

8. Modern False gods/idols?

- God's desire if for the fulness of humanity to thrive in a community where the presence of God can dwell.

- when we worship a false idol/god we diminish our humanity by conforming to that image.

9. Idol worship – the most common sin!

- God's character shows that he will forgive us of our sin and desires to transform us into his image.

