

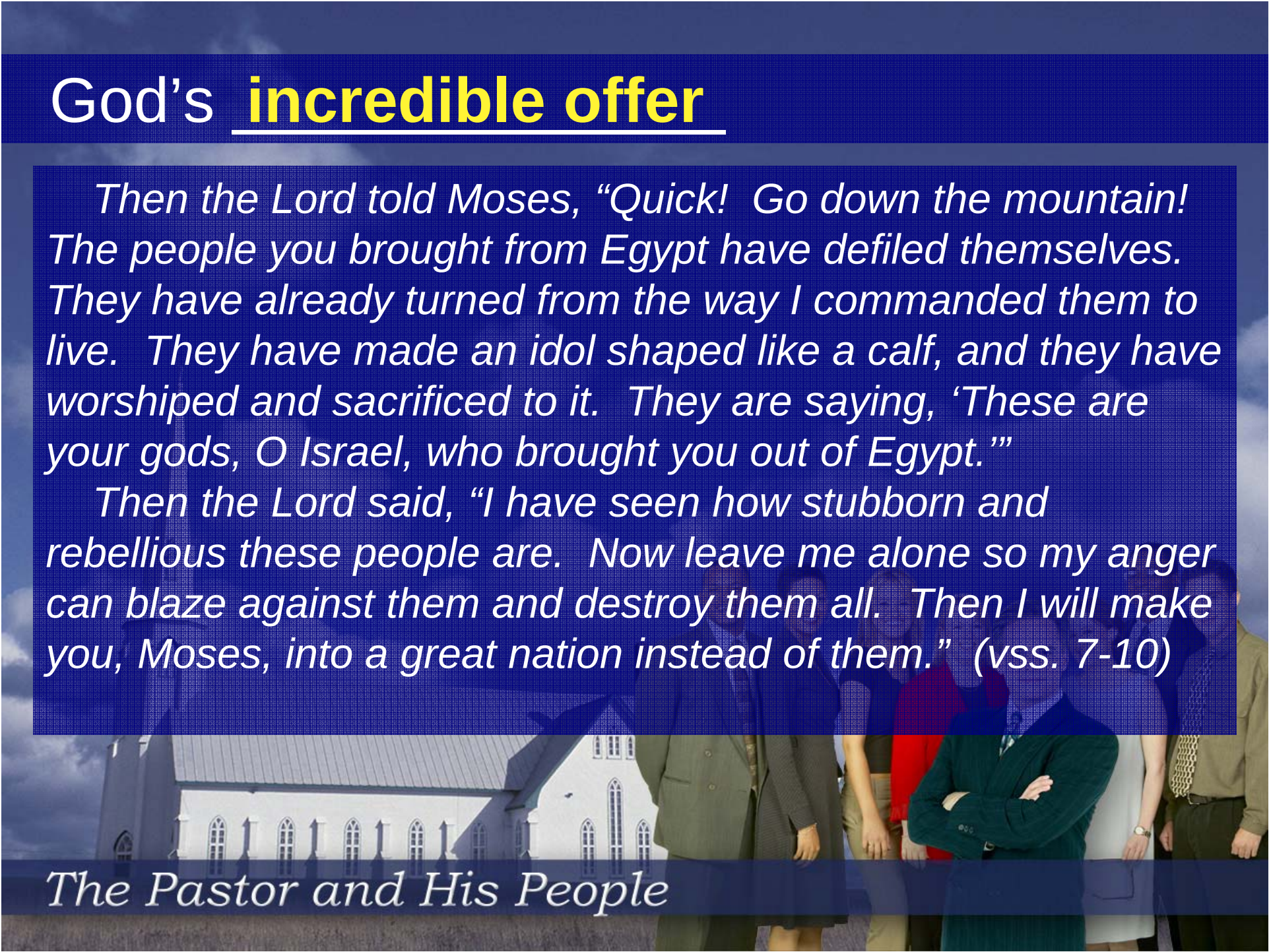
The Pastor and His People



God's incredible offer

Then the Lord told Moses, "Quick! Go down the mountain! The people you brought from Egypt have defiled themselves. They have already turned from the way I commanded them to live. They have made an idol shaped like a calf, and they have worshiped and sacrificed to it. They are saying, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you out of Egypt.'"

Then the Lord said, "I have seen how stubborn and rebellious these people are. Now leave me alone so my anger can blaze against them and destroy them all. Then I will make you, Moses, into a great nation instead of them." (vss. 7-10)



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Moses' Immediate Response

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God not to do it. “O Lord!” he exclaimed. “Why are you so angry with your own people whom you brought from the land of Egypt with such great power and mighty acts? The Egyptians will say, ‘God tricked them into coming to the mountains so He could kill them and wipe them from the face of the earth.’ Turn away from your fierce anger. Change your mind about this terrible disaster you are planning against our people! Remember your covenant with your servants – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. You swore by your own self. ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars of heaven. Yes, I will give them all of this land that I have promised to your descendants, and they will possess it forever.’”

So the Lord withdrew His threat and didn't bring against His people the disaster He had threatened. (vss. 11-14)

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His concern was for God's people, not himself.
(vss. 11-12)

His concern was for God's reputation, not his
own. (vs. 13)

*If there were more true shepherds in the
pulpit, there would be fewer rebellious sheep
in the pew.*



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A Leader's Identifiable Commitment

*So Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Alas, these people have committed a terrible sin. They have made gods of gold for themselves. But now, please forgive their sin – and if not, **then blot me out** of the record you are keeping." (vss. 31-32)*

***When the
shepherd
settles in,
the sheep
settle down.***

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