

I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD



From
here to
there



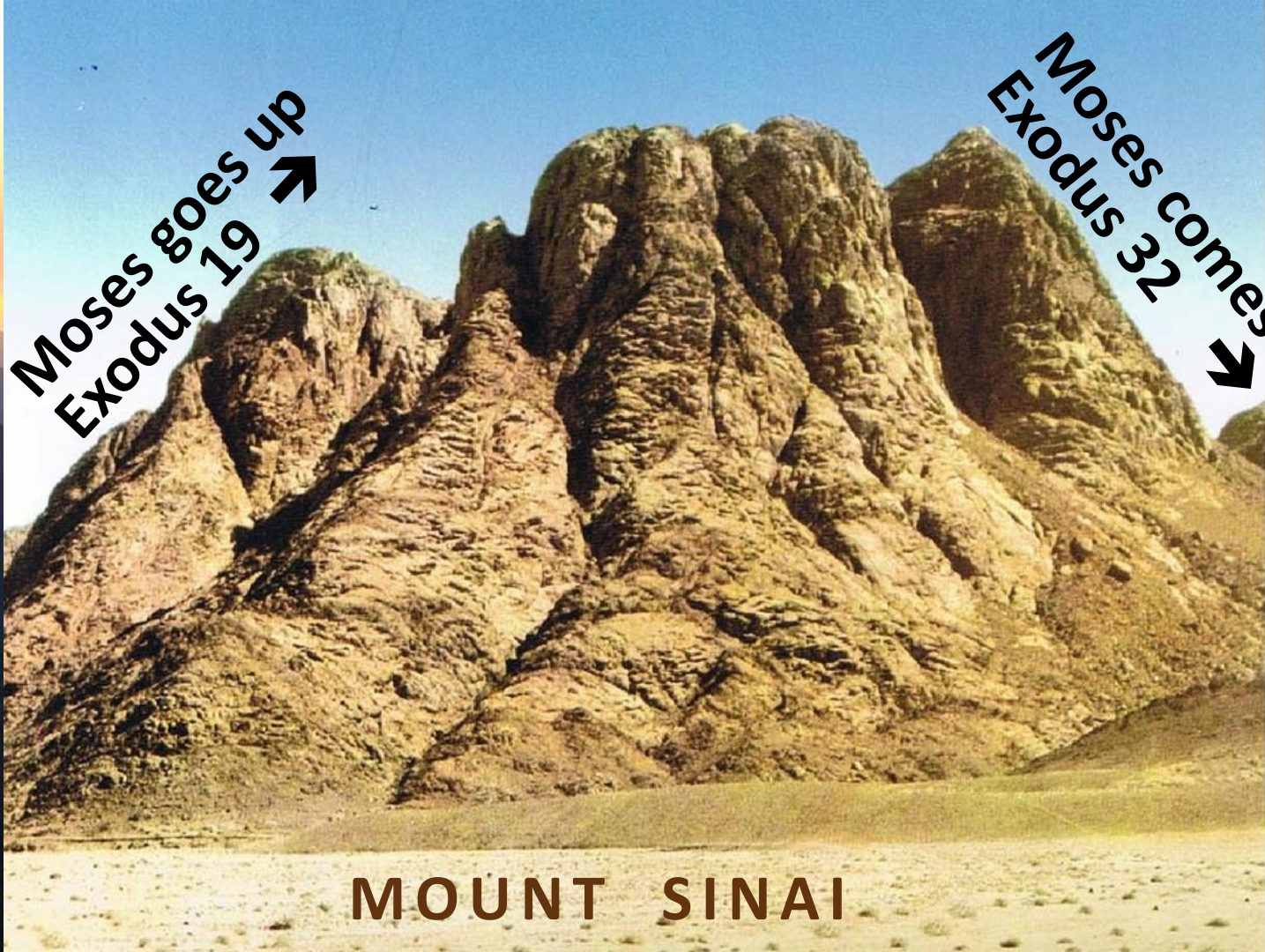
Presence of God



Prescriptions of God



From
here to
there



Moses goes up
Exodus 19 ↗

Moses comes down
Exodus 32 ↘

MOUNT SINAI

19 On the first day of the third month after the Israelites left Egypt – on that very day – they came to the Desert of Sinai. ² After they set out from Rephidim, they entered the Desert of Sinai, and Israel camped there in the desert in front of the mountain.

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

³ Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, ‘This is what you are to say to the descendants of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ⁴ “You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

Exodus 19 & 20

From
here to
there

⁵ Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, ⁶ you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”
These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.’

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

⁷ So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. ⁸ The people all responded together, ‘We will do everything the LORD has said.’ So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

⁹ The LORD said to Moses, ‘I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.’ Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

²⁰ The LORD descended to the top of Mount Sinai and called Moses to the top of the mountain. So Moses went up ²¹ and the LORD said to him, ‘Go down and warn the people so they do not force their way through to see the LORD and many of them perish.

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

²² Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them.'

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

²⁵ So Moses went down to the people and told them.

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

¹⁸ When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance ¹⁹ and said to Moses, ‘Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not let God speak to us or we will die.’

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

²⁰ Moses said to the people, 'Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.'

²¹ The people remained at a distance, while Moses approached the thick darkness where God was.

From
here to
there

Exodus 19 & 20

The image is a composite of two contrasting natural scenes. The left side shows a peaceful sunset over a range of mountains, with the sun low on the horizon and the sky in shades of orange and yellow. The right side shows a powerful, dark storm with multiple bright, jagged lightning bolts striking down from a massive, billowing cloud formation. The overall composition suggests a transition or a choice between two states.

I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD

From
here to
there

First rejection (the presence of God)



I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD



First rejection (the presence of God)

From
here to
there

Speak to us yourself and we will listen.
But do not let God speak to us or we will die.

Ex 20:19

32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered round Aaron and said, ‘Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.’

From
here to
there

Exodus 32

² Aaron answered them, ‘Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.’ ³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron.

From
here to
there

Exodus 32

⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

From
here to
there

Exodus 32

⁹ ‘I have seen these people,’ the LORD said to Moses, ‘and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation.’

From
here to
there

Exodus 32

11 But Moses sought the favour of
the LORD his God.

From
here to
there

Exodus 32

14 Then the LORD relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

From
here to
there

Exodus 32

¹⁹ When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain. ²⁰ And he took the calf the people had made and burned it in the fire; then he ground it to powder, scattered it on the water and made the Israelites drink it.

Exodus 32

From
here to
there

²¹ He said to Aaron, ‘What did these people do to you, that you led them into such great sin?’

²² ‘Do not be angry, my lord,’ Aaron answered. ‘You know how prone these people are to evil.’

From
here to
there

Exodus 32

²³ They said to me, “Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”²⁴ So I told them, “Whoever has any gold jewellery, take it off.” Then they gave me the gold, and I threw it into the fire, and out came this calf!’

Exodus 32

From
here to
there

²⁵ Moses saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughing-stock to their enemies. ²⁶ So he stood at the entrance to the camp and said, 'Whoever is for the LORD, come to me.' And all the Levites rallied to him.

From
here to
there

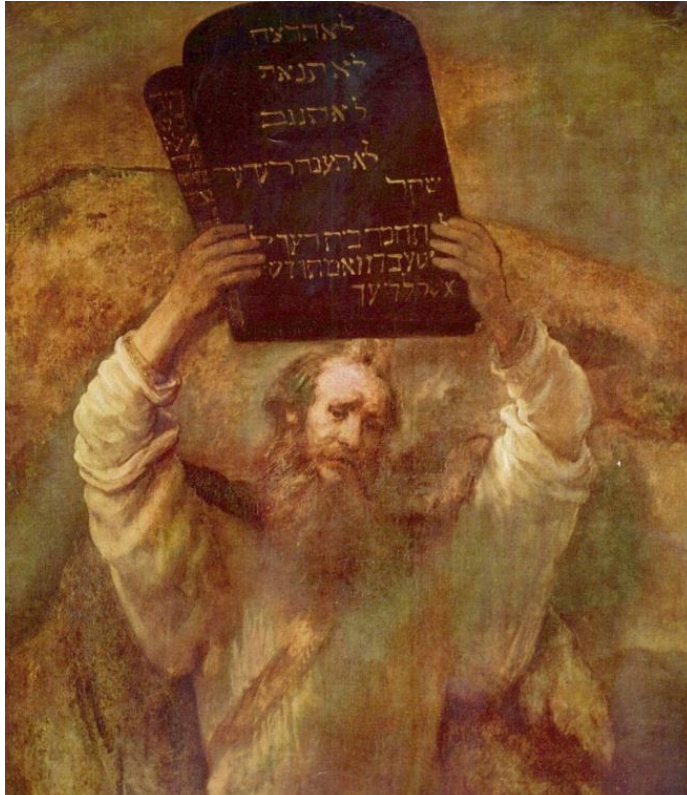
Exodus 32



From
here to
there



From
here to
there



Rembrandt Van Rijn



Cecil B DeMille

I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD

Second rejection
(the prescriptions of God)

From
here to
there



St Barnabas
transforming lives • changing the world

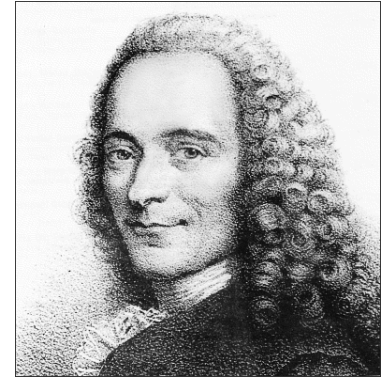
Nicholas Poussin

The Adoration of the Golden Calf

1633–1634

The National Gallery

“God made man in his own image and
man has returned the compliment”

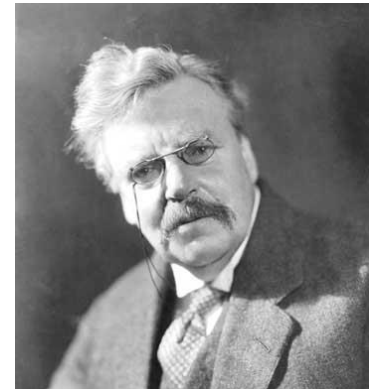


Voltaire

From
here to
there

“God made man in his own image and
man has returned the compliment”
Voltaire

“When people stop believing in God,
they don’t believe in nothing—they
believe in anything.”



G K Chesterton

From
here to
there

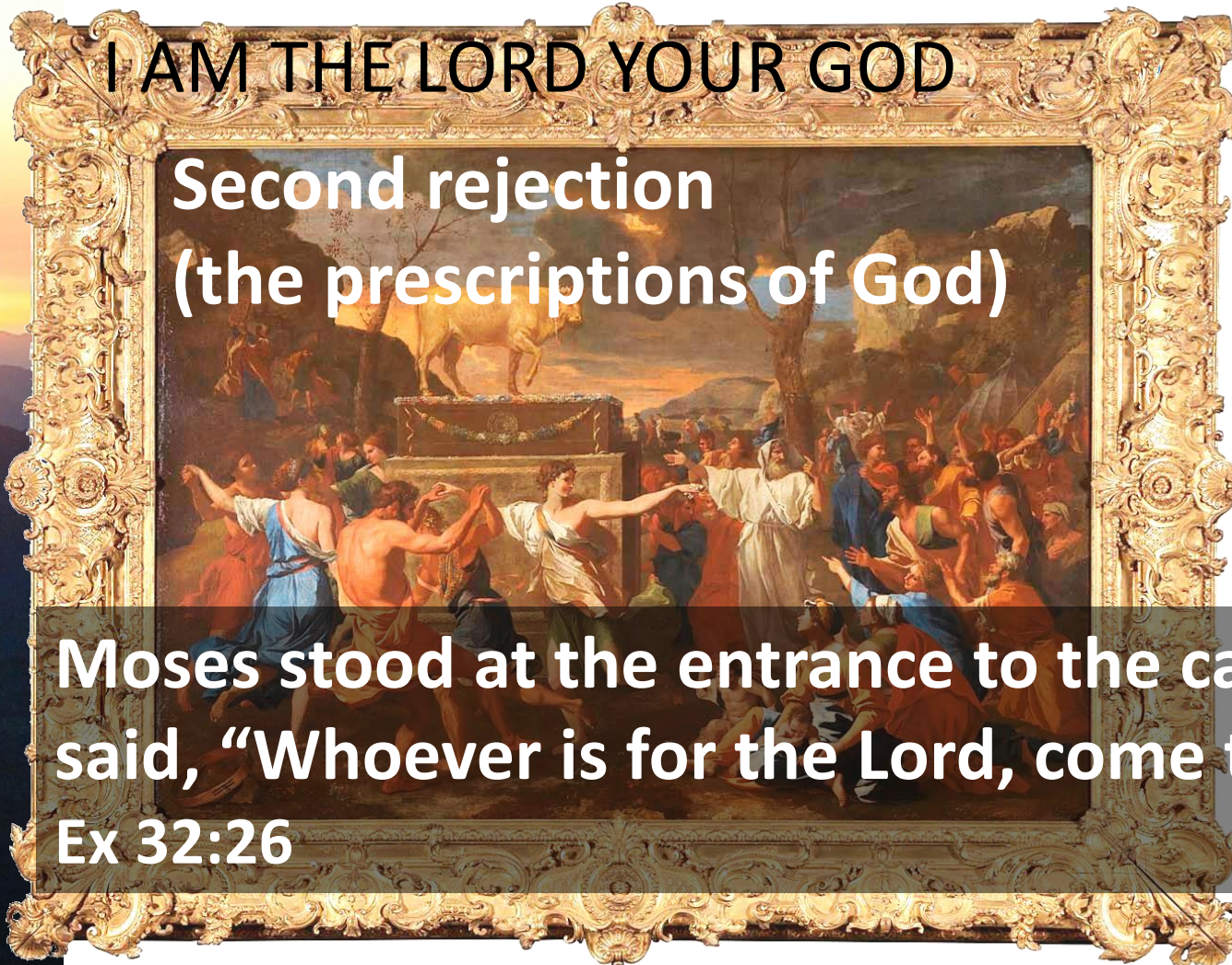
I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD

St Barnabas
transforming lives • changing the world

Second rejection (the prescriptions of God)

Moses stood at the entrance to the camp and
said, “Whoever is for the Lord, come to me.”
Ex 32:26

From
here to
there



I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD

**1st temptation – against the presence of God
to keep God at a distance**



**2nd temptation – against the prescriptions of God
to modify God to suit us**



From
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there