

The God Who Punishes—Exodus 32:15-35

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In the sad aftermath of Israel's sin with the golden calf, God chastens His people with death and plague. It is the first instance in the Scriptures where God punishes His people, declaring that He will *visit their sin upon them*. This occasion allows us to make several observations about the punishment of God:

1. God's punishment is His response to the breaking of His holy word.
2. God's punishment highlights the terrible nature of sin.
3. God's punishment may be averted through atonement.