



In the land of Egypt, men and women had many animals they called gods. These animals were fed and cared for as if they were kings. Of all the animals, the bull was the most sacred. Incense was placed in front of the bull. Sacrifices were placed in front of the bull.

The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. For a long time, they had watched the people of Egypt worship the animals. They had seen the Egyptians bow down in front of the bull.

Then God led His people out from Egypt. God did not want His people to live like the Egyptians. God gave His people 10 laws. These laws told them how to live. God said -

Do not have any other gods besides me.

Do not make any image of anything in heaven or earth. You shall not bow down to any image.

God's people knew they should not worship the ox or any other animal. But they did not learn this lesson right away.

TURN CARD OVER

When they were in the wilderness, the people asked Aaron to make them a god. Aaron took gold. He melted it. Then he made it into a calf. All the people looked at the golden calf and said -

This is the god that brought us out of Egypt.

Even when the Israelites arrived in the promised land, they sometimes forgot the command about not having other gods or images. All around in the land of Israel there were people who did worship other gods. Many times the Israelites made idols and bowed down to them too.

God asked us to worship only Him. God created the animals to help us. We should not worship them.

Even today there are people in India who follow the Hindu religion. These people say that the ox is sacred. They will not hurt the ox in any way. The Hindu people need to hear about Jesus.