As soon as Moses came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, he became enraged; and he hurled the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. He took the calf that they had made and burned it; he ground it to powder and strewed it upon the water and so made the Israelites drink it.

Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought such great sin upon them?” Aaron said, “Let not my lord be enraged. You know that this people is bent on evil.

They said to me, ‘Make us a god to lead us; for that man Moses, who brought us from the land of Egypt—we do not know what has happened to him.’ So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold, take it off!’ They gave it to me and I hurled it into the fire and out came this calf!”

Moses saw that the people were out of control—since Aaron had let them get out of control—so that they were a menace to any who might oppose them.

Moses stood up in the gate of the camp and said, “Whoever is for the Eternal, come here!” and all the men of Levi rallied to him.

He said to them, “Thus says the Eternal, the God of Israel: Each of you put sword on thigh, go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay sibling, neighbor, and kin.”

19. As soon as Moses came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, he became enraged; and he hurled the tablets from his hands and shattered them at the foot of the mountain. 20. He took the calf that they had made and burned it; he ground it to powder and strewed it upon the water and so made the Israelites drink it. 21. Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought such great sin upon them?” 22. Aaron said, “Let not my lord be enraged. You know that this people is bent on evil. They said to me, ‘Make us a god to lead us; for that man Moses, who brought us from the land of Egypt—we do not know what has happened to him.’

23. So I said to them, ‘Whoever has gold, take it off!’ They gave it to me and I hurled it into the fire and out came this calf!” 24. Moses saw that the people were out of control—since Aaron had let them get out of control—so that they were a menace to any who might oppose them. 25. Moses stood up in the gate of the camp and said, “Whoever is for the Eternal, come here!” and all the men of Levi rallied to him. 26. He said to them, “Thus says the Eternal, the God of Israel: Each of you put sword on thigh, go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay sibling, neighbor, and kin.”
Then he said, “Fill four jars of water and pour it over the burnt offering and the wood.” Then he said, “Do it again!” And they did it a second time. “Do it a third time!” he said; and they did it a third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench. At the time of the [afternoon] meal offering, the prophet Elijah came forward and said, “Eternal One, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, make it known today that You are God in Israel, and that I am Your servant, that I have done all these things at Your command. Answer me, Eternal One, answer me, and let this people know that You, the Eternal, are God, and that You were the One who turned their hearts backward!” The lightening of the Eternal came down and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, and the dust; it licked up the water in the trench as well. When they saw this, all the people threw themselves to the ground and cried out, “The Eternal alone is God; the Eternal alone is God!”