

When Compassion and Vengeance Meet: Reutilization and Reimagination of the GCN¹ in the Twelve

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1. Abstract/Summary

The narrative of the Golden Calf in Exodus 32-34 stands out in the Hebrew Bible, depicting the Israelites' transgression and the subsequent divine pardon leading to covenant renewal. While numerous studies have traced quotations and allusions from Exodus 34:6-7 in the Book of the Twelve—especially in Hosea, Joel, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, and Malachi—the broader context of the Golden Calf incident remains less explored. This paper delves into how the Twelve, particularly Amos, Obadiah, Habakkuk, Haggai, and Zechariah, draw upon and transform key themes from the Golden Calf story to incite change and renewal amidst the trials and dispersion of God's people.

2. Methodology

A literary and canonical methodology underpins this study, pinpointing and dissecting intertextual connections via lexical and thematic parallels. Discussions on authorship, historical contexts, and redaction will be secondary, serving to illuminate the primary literary analysis.

3. Outline

- **Amos: Echoes of Exodus**
 - (1) The Lord's "Turning" in Exod 32 and Amos 1-2
 - (2) The Lord's "Bringing up," "Knowing," and "Visiting" in the GCN and Amos 3:1-2
 - (3) Prophetic Intercession and Divine Forgiveness in the GCN and Amos 7:1-9
 - (4) God's Judgment and Restoration in the GCN and Amos 9
- **Obadiah: Retracing Rebellion and Response**
- **Habakkuk: A Dialogue with the Divine**
 - (1) The Uniqueness of Habakkuk's "Prayer"
 - (2) Hab 3:2 as an allusion to the AF through the GCN

¹ GCN: Golden Calf Narrative (Exodus 32-34)

- **Zephaniah: The Wrath and Embrace of a Jealous God**
 - (1) The Lord's "burning anger" (תַּרְוֶן אֵשׁ) in the GCN and Zephaniah
 - (2) The correlation between Exod 32:7-14 and Zephaniah 3:1-8
 - (3) An "Awesome" and "jealous" God in Exodus 34 and Zephaniah
 - (4) The Lord "in your midst" (בְּקִרְבְּךָ) in the GCN and Zephaniah 3:15-17
- **Haggai: The Presence that Propels**
 - (1) The Literary Resonance between Exod 32:1-10 and Hag 1:1-11
 - (2) The Lord's Presence and Glory in Exod 33 and Hag 1:12-2:9
 - (3) The Word of Covenant in Exod 34:10, 27 and Hag 2:5
- **Zechariah: Tradition Transformed**
 - (1) Thematic Resonances between the GCN and Zechariah 1:2-6
 - (2) Lexical Connections between the GCN and Zechariah 1:12-17
 - (3) The GCN as the underlying tradition of Zechariah 8

Conclusion: Unveiling the GCN Motifs

This inquiry, while not exhaustive, spotlights a compelling intertextual phenomenon that invites further study. The Twelve not only incorporate but reimagine formative traditions, with the Golden Calf narrative's portrayal of divine attributes (AF) and its pivotal historical role surfacing more frequently than acknowledged. This examination posits that through the lens of the Golden Calf narrative, the Twelve present a unique perspective on change, underscoring repentance, restoration, and covenant fidelity for God's people.