


God's Anger and Moses' Intercession

Exodus 32:7- 14


Presented by Bob DeWaay
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The Lord tells Moses of their corruption

- **Exodus 32:7**

Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves."



God's assessment of their sin

- **Exodus 32:8**

"They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a molten calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, 'This is your god, O Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!'"

“Since God himself had chosen his ways of personal manifestation in the past (fire, smoke, pillar, overpowering voice), the people’s choice of a dumb idol who could do none of these things over the living God was also a rejection of his methods of demonstrating his presence. What they could see and touch at their convenience was what they wanted—a god who would let them live as they wished and have a good time when they wanted to and who would not impose his covenant requirements on them.”

(Douglas Stuart, *Exodus* in NAC)

God threatens severe judgment

■ **Exodus 32:9, 10**

The LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. Now then let Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation.”

The announcement of judgment to the prophet often implies an invitation to intercede

■ **Amos 7:1-6**

Twice God showed Amos coming judgment (by locus and by fire) and Amos interceded and judgment was averted.

■ **Jonah 4:2-4**

Jonah was told to “preach the message I will tell you” and it was that Nineveh would be destroyed in forty days. The possibility of repentance was implied.

Moses intercedes by appealing to God's prior actions

■ **Exodus 32:11**

Then Moses entreated the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?"

Moses turned down an offer to be the new Abraham

■ **Numbers 12:3**

(Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)

- Moses could have been rid of his troubles (obstinate people)
- Moses could have made his role even more prominent
- Moses already refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter

Moses intercedes by appealing to the honor of God's name

■ **Exodus 32:12**

"Why should the Egyptians speak, saying, 'With evil intent He brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your burning anger and change Your mind about doing harm to Your people."

Moses intercedes by appealing to God's previous promises to the Patriarchs

■ **Exodus 32:13**

"Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'"

God responds to Moses intercession and spares His people

■ **Exodus 32:14**

So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people.

Implications and Applications

1) We have one greater than Moses to intercede for us: Jesus

2) We can always trust God's promises in Christ

3) The honor of God's name must be more important to us than our own status

1) We have one greater than Moses to intercede for us: Jesus

■ **Hebrews 7:25** (ESV)

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

1) We have one greater than Moses to intercede for us: Jesus

■ **Romans 8:34**

who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

2) We can always trust God's promises in Christ

■ **Hebrews 11:17-19**

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten son; it was he to whom it was said, 'In Isaac your descendants shall be called.'

He considered that God is able to raise people even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

2) We can always trust God's promises in Christ

■ **Hebrews 11:13**

All these died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance, and having confessed that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.

2) We can always trust God's promises in Christ

■ **Hebrews 6:11, 12**

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

3) The honor of God's name must be more important to us than our own status

■ **Hebrews 11:24-26**

By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin; considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.
