

Deuteronomy 9:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the LORD was wroth against you to destroy you. But the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also.

Analysis

For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure, wherewith the LORD was wroth against you to destroy you. But the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also. Moses' fear was not cowardice but proper recognition of God's holy wrath against sin. The Hebrew words for anger (aph) and hot displeasure (chemah) emphasize the intensity of divine judgment Israel deserved.

Moses' successful intercession demonstrates the power of faithful mediation. Though God's wrath was justly kindled, He hearkened to Moses' plea, showing that the covenant relationship included provisions for advocacy and restoration. This previews the greater intercession of Christ, whose mediation is always effective because He pleads His own perfect righteousness on our behalf.

The phrase at that time also indicates this was one of multiple intercessions. Moses repeatedly stood between God's wrath and Israel's sin throughout the wilderness journey, foreshadowing Christ's continuous intercession for believers (Hebrews 7:25).

Historical Context

This intercession occurred immediately after the golden calf incident. Moses' successful advocacy prevented Israel's complete destruction and secured covenant renewal with new tablets of the law.

The parallel between Moses' intercession and Christ's advocacy demonstrates progressive revelation - the old covenant mediator was faithful servant in God's house, while Christ is Son over God's house (Hebrews 3:5-6).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does understanding God's holy wrath against sin deepen appreciation for Christ's intercession?
2. What made Moses' intercession effective before God?
3. How does Moses' repeated intercession prefigure Christ's continuous advocacy for believers?
4. Why should proper fear of God's wrath drive us to the mediator rather than to despair?
5. What does it mean that God 'hearkened' to Moses' plea?

Interlinear Text

בָּאֵרֶאשׁ רָאשׁ כָּרְבָּא	מִפְּנֵי רָאֵתִי גַּם	בַּאֲפָנָה וְבַּחֲמַת הַיְמָנָה וְבַּחֲמַת הַיְמָנָה	בַּאֲפָנָה וְבַּחֲמַת הַיְמָנָה	בַּאֲפָנָה וְבַּחֲמַת הַיְמָנָה
H3588 For I was afraid	H3025 of	H6440 the anger	H2534 and hot displeasure	H834 was wroth
wherewith the LORD	H3068	H5921	H8045	H8085 hearkened
wherewith the LORD	H3068	H413	H1571	H1931 unto me at that time

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:10 (References Lord): And I stayed in the mount, according to the first time, forty days and forty nights; and the LORD hearkened unto me at that time also, and the LORD would not destroy thee.

Psalms 99:6 (References Lord): Moses and Aaron among his priests, and Samuel among them that call upon his name; they called upon the LORD, and he answered them.

Exodus 32:14 (References Lord): And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Exodus 33:17 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.