

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

Psalms 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

כִּי	יָגַדְתִּי	מִפְּנֵי	הָאֵף	וְהַחֵם	אֶשׁ	קָצַף
H3588	For I was afraid	of	the anger	and hot displeasure	H834	was wroth
	H3025	H6440	H639	H2534		H7107
	וְהָיָה	עָלֶיךָ	לְהַשְׁמִיד	אֶתְּךָ	וַיִּשְׁמַע	
	wherewith the LORD	H5921	against you to destroy	H853	hearkened	
	H3068		H8045		H8085	
	וְהָיָה	גַּם	בַּפֶּעַם	הַהוּא:		
	wherewith the LORD	H413	unto me at that time	H1931		
	H3068		H6471			

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.