

# Deuteronomy 9:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time.

## Analysis

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**And the LORD was very angry with Aaron to have destroyed him: and I prayed for Aaron also the same time.** Aaron's guilt in the golden calf incident is explicitly acknowledged - despite his priestly calling, he led the people into idolatry by constructing the idol. God's anger against him was justified.

The phrase very angry...to have destroyed him indicates Aaron stood under sentence of death for covenant violation. Only Moses' intercession preserved him. This demonstrates that even spiritual leaders are not exempt from judgment and depend entirely on mediatorial grace.

Moses' prayer for Aaron also shows the scope of faithful intercession - Moses advocated not only for the people generally but specifically for his brother who bore particular responsibility. This illustrates Christ's advocacy for individual believers, not just the church corporately.

Aaron's restoration to priestly service after this sin demonstrates God's grace in using flawed instruments. The high priesthood would descend through Aaron's line despite his failure, pointing forward to the perfect High Priest who knows no sin.

## Historical Context

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Aaron served as Israel's first high priest, mediating between God and people. His complicity in the golden calf incident revealed the inadequacy of human mediators,

all of whom need mediation themselves. This points forward to Christ, the sinless High Priest who needs no advocate.

That Aaron continued in priestly ministry after this failure demonstrates God's sovereign grace in calling and using imperfect servants.

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Aaron's failure demonstrate that even religious leaders depend wholly on grace?
2. What does it reveal about Moses' character that he interceded specifically for Aaron?
3. How does the flawed Aaronic priesthood highlight the necessity of Christ's perfect priesthood?
4. Why does God continue to use imperfect servants in His redemptive purposes?
5. What comfort does Aaron's restoration offer to believers who have failed significantly?

## Interlinear Text

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אָהֲרֹן	הֵתְאַנֶּן	יְהוָה	מְאֹד	לְהַשְׁמִיד	וְאֶתְפִּלֵּל
for Aaron	angry	And the LORD	was very	to have destroyed	him and I prayed
H175	H599	H3068	H3966	H8045	H6419
גַּם	בְּעֵד	אָהֲרֹן	בְּעֵת	הַהוּא:	
H1571	H1157	for Aaron	also the same time	H1931	
		H175	H6256		

