

# Deuteronomy 9:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Also in Horeb ye provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you.

## Analysis

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The golden calf incident at Horeb (Sinai) was Israel's paradigmatic rebellion—creating idols while receiving covenant law. The phrase 'ye provoked the LORD to wrath' uses strong language: hikhtastem (provoked to anger). The severity is shown: 'the LORD was angry with you to have destroyed you'—complete annihilation was justified. Only Moses' intercession prevented it (vv. 18-20, 25-29). This demonstrates:

1. sin's seriousness—idolatry merits destruction
2. God's righteous anger against covenant violation
3. mediation's necessity—Moses stood between guilty Israel and holy God, prefiguring Christ's mediatorial work.

Believers owe their salvation to Christ's intercession (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25), not personal merit.

## Historical Context

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The golden calf incident (Exodus 32) occurred while Moses received law on Mount Sinai. Aaron led the people in making the calf, proclaiming 'these be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt' (Exodus 32:4). This violated the second commandment before the full law was even delivered. God threatened complete destruction (Exodus 32:10); Moses' intercession spared the nation, though 3,000 died in judgment (Exodus 32:28). This became Israel's defining

example of rebellion, referenced repeatedly in Scripture (Nehemiah 9:18; Psalm 106:19-23; Acts 7:41).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. What 'golden calves' (idols of comfort, success, control) do you create while professing to worship God?
2. How seriously do you take God's righteous anger against sin and idolatry in your life?
3. How does understanding Christ's mediation between you and God's just wrath deepen your gratitude and devotion?

## Interlinear Text

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|                      |                                   |                   |                         |                  |                         |       |          |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-------|----------|
| וְבָחַר בְּ          | מִ                                | אֶת הַקְצִפָּת מִ | יְהִי הָ                | רִ               | יְתַאֲבֵ                | וְ    | יְהִי הָ |
| <b>Also in Horeb</b> | <b>to wrath</b>                   | H853              | <b>so that the LORD</b> | <b>was angry</b> | <b>so that the LORD</b> |       |          |
| H2722                | H7107                             |                   | H3068                   | H599             |                         | H3068 |          |
| בְּ                  | לְבַשְׂמֵ                         | וְ                | אֶתְכֶם:                |                  |                         |       |          |
| H0                   | <b>with you to have destroyed</b> | H8045             | H853                    |                  |                         |       |          |

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