

Exodus 32:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.

Analysis

God's command **וְעַתָּה הַנִּיחָה לִּי** (ve'ata hanicha li, now therefore let Me alone) seems strange—why would omnipotent God need Moses to 'let Him alone'? This reveals God's willingness to be persuaded by intercessory prayer, inviting Moses into the decision. The phrase **וַיַּחַר־אַפִּי בָהֶם** (veyichar-api bahem, that My wrath may wax hot) uses fire imagery for righteous indignation. **וְאֶכְלֶם** (va'achalem, and I may consume them) shows the covenant-breaking deserved death. God's promise to make Moses **גוֹי גָדוֹל** (goy gadol, a great nation) echoes His Abrahamic promise (Gen 12:2), offering Moses the patriarchal role.

Historical Context

This parallels Abraham's intercession for Sodom (Gen 18) and anticipates Christ's high priestly intercession (Heb 7:25). God's offer to Moses tests whether Moses would prioritize personal advancement or covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's invitation to Moses teach about intercessory prayer's power?
2. When tempted with personal advancement, do you advocate for God's glory or your own?

Interlinear Text

וְעַתָּה H6258	הִנֵּנִי יְהוָה H3240	לִי H0	וְיָחַר H2734	אֶפֶי H639	בְּךָ H0
	Now therefore let me alone		may wax hot	that my wrath	
	וְאֶכְלֶם H3615	וְאֶעֱשֶׂם H6213	אֹתָם H853	לְגוֹי H1471	
	against them and that I may consume	them and I will make		nation	
	גָּדוֹל: H1419				
	of thee a great				

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 9:14 (Parallel theme): Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.

Numbers 14:12 (Parallel theme): I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they.

Deuteronomy 9:19 (Parallel theme): 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.

Exodus 22:24 (Judgment): And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.

Exodus 32:19 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

Exodus 32:11 (Judgment): And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand?

Numbers 16:22 (Parallel theme): And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?