

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 **יעתָה הַנִּיחָה לִי** (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 **בְּהָם אַפִּי** (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 **גּוֹי גָּדוֹל** (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

בָּהּ מִעְתָּה
H6258 Now therefore let me alone
בְּיַד יְהֹוָה
H3240
לֵי
H0
יִמְרָא
H2734
אֵפֶר
H639
בְּהָמָן
H0

תִּאֵכֶל מֵעַל
H3615
against them and that I may consume
וְאַשְׁלִישׁ הָם
H6213
them and I will make
לְגַדְעָה אַוְתָּה
H853
nation
הַלְּכָל
H1471
of thee a great
H1419

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?

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