

# Exodus 32:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

## Analysis

Moses' intercession begins **וַיְחַל מֹשֶׁה** (vay'chal Moshe, Moses besought/entreated urgently), using a word meaning to appease or seek favor earnestly. Moses' argument appeals to three grounds:

1. covenant relationship ('Your people')
2. God's mighty works ('which You brought forth...with great power'),
3. God's reputation before pagans.

Moses reverses God's 'your people' (v7) back to **עַמְךָ** (amcha, Your people), insisting on God's ownership. The rhetorical question **לֹא** (lamah, why?) challenges God's proposed action based on His own character and purposes.

## Historical Context

Moses' intercession exemplifies the mediator role—standing between God's holiness and human sin. This foreshadows Christ's superior mediation, who not only prays but also satisfies divine justice.

## Related Passages

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

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. What motivates your prayers—God's glory or your comfort?
2. How does appealing to God's character and promises strengthen intercession?

## Interlinear Text

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לְמַה	לֵי	אָמַר	אֱלֹהִים	יְהוָה	פָּנָים	אַתָּה	מִשְׁׁנָה	מִשְׁׁנָה	לִימַם	לִימַם	לִימַם
<b>besought</b>	<b>And Moses</b>	H853	H6440	<b>LORD</b>	<b>his God</b>	<b>and said</b>					H4100
H2470	H4872			H3068	H430	H559					
אָשֶׁר	בְּעֵת	בְּעֵת	אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	אָפָּנָה	
<b>LORD</b>	<b>wax hot</b>	<b>why doth thy wrath</b>	<b>against thy people</b>								H834
H3068	H2734	H639	H5971								
בְּכָל	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	מִצְבָּה	
<b>which thou hast brought forth</b>	<b>out of the land</b>	<b>of Egypt</b>	<b>power</b>	<b>with great</b>							
H3318	H776	H4714	H3581	H1419							
בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	
<b>hand</b>	<b>and with a mighty</b>										
H3027	H2389										
בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	בְּכָל	
<b>mighty</b>											

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 106:23** (Judgment): Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.