

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 מִשָּׁחַל 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 אִמְכָּה (amcha, Your people), insisting on God's ownership. The rhetorical question לָמָּה (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

Study Questions

- ## Interlinear Text

Additional Cross-References

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