

# Exodus 32:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

## Analysis

God's statement הִנֵּה אֶת-הָעָם הַזֶּה (ra'iti et-ha'am hazeh, I have seen this people) echoes His words about their oppression in Egypt (Ex 3:7), but now He sees their rebellion. The description עַם-קָשֶׁה-עֹרֶף (am-qsheh-oref, stiff-necked people) uses agricultural imagery of an ox that won't bow its neck to the yoke—they were obstinate, resistant to God's guidance. This phrase becomes a repeated characterization of Israel throughout Scripture (Ex 33:3, 34:9; Deut 9:6; Acts 7:51), showing persistent rebellion despite covenant privileges.

## Historical Context

Stephen used this phrase in his speech before martyrdom (Acts 7:51), connecting Israel's rejection of Moses with their rejection of Jesus, showing the pattern of resisting God's appointed mediators.

## Related Passages

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

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

## Study Questions

1. In what areas of life do you exhibit a 'stiff neck' toward God's guidance?

2. How does persistent exposure to truth without obedience harden the heart?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	יְהוָה ה	אֶל	מֹשֶׁה ה	כִּי יֵרֵא	אֶת	עַם	הַזֶּה ה
said	And the LORD	H413	unto Moses	I have seen	H853	people	H2088
H559	H3068		H4872	H7200		H5971	
וְהִנֵּה ה	עַם	קָשָׁה	עַל כָּךְ	הוּא:			
H2009	people	and behold it is a stiffnecked	H6203	H1931			
	H5971	H7186					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 48:4** (Parallel theme): Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;

**Acts 7:51** (Parallel theme): Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

**Exodus 34:9** (References Lord): And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.

**Exodus 33:5** (References Lord): For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee.

**Exodus 33:3** (Parallel theme): Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

**Deuteronomy 9:13** (References Lord): Furthermore the LORD spake unto me, saying, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

**Deuteronomy 31:27** (References Lord): For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?

**Deuteronomy 9:6** (References Lord): Understand therefore, that the LORD thy God giveth thee not this good land to possess it for thy righteousness; for thou art a stiffnecked people.

**2 Chronicles 30:8** (References Lord): Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.

**Psalms 78:8** (Parallel theme): And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not stedfast with God.

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