

Exodus 34:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Moses intercedes based on God's revealed character, citing the divine attributes just proclaimed. He acknowledges Israel's 'stiffnecked' (קִשְׁיָה־עֹרֶף, qesheh-oreph) nature—stubborn as oxen resisting the yoke—yet appeals for pardon (סָלַח, salach) and inheritance (נָחַל, nachal). Moses asks God to 'go among us' despite their sin, trusting mercy over judgment. His prayer models intercession grounded in God's own promises and character.

Historical Context

God had previously threatened to send an angel rather than go personally among Israel (33:2-3). Moses here requests full restoration of divine presence.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How can we pray with confidence for mercy despite acknowledging our sin?
2. What does Moses' intercession teach about the role of a mediator?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵם	נָא	מָצָא אֵתִי	יְיָ	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	אֲדֹנָי	יְיָ
And he said	H518	H4994	If now I have found	grace	in thy sight	O Lord	H1980
H559			H4672	H2580	H5869	H136	
אֵל	אֲדֹנָי	בְּקִרְבִּי	כִּי	עַם	קָשָׁה	עַרְפָּה	
H4994	O Lord	among	H3588	people	us for it is a stiffnecked	H6203	
	H136	H7130		H5971	H7186		
וְהָאֵל	וְסִלַּחְתָּ	לְעֹנֵינוּ	וְלִחַטָּאתֵנוּ	וְנִלְתָּנוּ:			
H1931	and pardon	our iniquity	and our sin	and take us for thine inheritance			
	H5545	H5771	H2403	H5157			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 33:12 (References Lord): Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.

Psalms 94:14 (References Lord): For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

Deuteronomy 32:9 (References Lord): For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

Psalms 135:4 (References Lord): For the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.

Psalms 28:9 (Parallel theme): Save thy people, and bless thine inheritance: feed them also, and lift them up for ever.

Jeremiah 10:16 (References Lord): The portion of Jacob is not like them: for he is the former of all things; and Israel is the rod of his inheritance: The LORD of hosts is his name.

Exodus 32:9 (References Lord): And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Psalms 78:62 (Parallel theme): He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance.

Exodus 19:5 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

Zechariah 2:12 (References Lord): And the LORD shall inherit Judah his portion in the holy land, and shall choose Jerusalem again.