

# Numbers 14:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Pardon, I beseech thee, the iniquity of this people according unto the greatness of thy mercy, and as thou hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now.

## Analysis

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Moses grounds his plea for mercy in God's revealed character: 'longsuffering, and of great mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression.' This appeal to divine attributes demonstrates that God's nature itself provides grounds for hope even after severe sin. God's mercy is not arbitrary but flows from His essential character.

## Historical Context

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Moses' words echo God's self-revelation after the golden calf incident (Exodus 34:6-7), showing that past demonstrations of mercy create a foundation for present petitions. God's character remains constant; His past forgiveness becomes grounds for confidence in present appeals.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Which attributes of God give you the greatest confidence when confessing sin?
2. How does God's past mercy toward you affect your approach to Him in prayer?

## Interlinear Text

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סָלַחַ

Pardon

אַתָּה

H4994

I beseech thee the iniquity

H5545

לְעֹזָה

H5771

לְעַמּוֹ

of this people

H5971

תְּבִלָּה

H2088

כְּגַדְלָה

according unto the greatness

H1433

מִסְכָּנָה

of thy mercy

H2617

וְכַאשְׁר

H834

נָשַׁא אֶתְהָ

and as thou hast forgiven

H5375

לְעַמּוֹ

of this people

H5971

תְּבִלָּה

H2088

מִמִּצְבָּה

from Egypt

H4714

עַד

H5704

תְּהִנֵּה

H2008

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 34:9** (Grace): 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.

**Psalms 78:38** (Sin): But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

**Psalms 106:45** (Parallel theme): And he remembered for them his covenant, and repented according to the multitude of his mercies.

**Exodus 32:32** (Sin): Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

**Isaiah 55:7** (Grace): Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

**Exodus 33:17** (Grace): And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

**Jonah 4:2** (Grace): And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

**Jonah 3:10** (Parallel theme): And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

**James 5:15** (Sin): And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

**1 Kings 8:34** (Sin): Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.