

Ex 32:7 ¶ "And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: 8 They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. 9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff necked people: 10 Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation."

God tells Moses **"Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:"** We can look at **"thy people"** in several ways. First, as though they are Moses's chosen nation of people who he has delivered from Egypt, which we know is not true. Or simply, as Moses is of the nation of Israel, thus they are thy people. In the context in which it is stated, it lends to God saying: the nation Israel is thy people, and you led them out of Egypt, because I chose you, Moses, to be their leader. Thus, God is saying you are responsible for them. Very much like the pastor of a church body bears responsibility for the congregation in his heart.

God tells Moses: thy people have corrupted themselves, made a molten calf, and have worshipped it, proclaiming the image to be the gods that delivered them out of Egypt. This is defined for us in **Jas 1:14-15; 14 "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."** God is going to send a plague and destroy many of Israel for this sin. We shall see that death for sin, before they enter the land of promise, will be the end result for all of Israel except Joshua and Caleb.

Did you notice here and in the preceding verses, Israel uses gods (plural) for the one idol that Aaron made for them? How can a singular molten calf have a plural meaning? What was this golden image comprised of? The individual gold given by each person from the tribe of Israel. Each individual piece represents the gods that that person worships. When combined, there is one image, but many gods are represented. All people, who do not put on Christ in their daily lives, are worshipping gods, themselves being the first of the number.

God also tells Moses that he foreknew this people to be stiff necked. God tells Moses to not stand in his way, so His wrath can wax hot, and He can destroy this stiff-necked people. God also promises to make of Moses a great nation.

11 "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? 12 Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it forever. 14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people."

Moses, immediately responded to God: why does your wrath wax hot against **"thy people,"** whom You brought out of Egypt with great power and demonstration of Your sovereignty. Moses is quick to point out to God, You chose these people, not me. Demonstrating to us that we should never come to God declaring I have saved myself or someone else eternally, but rather, when interceding for other children of God, we should be reminding God that you chose to save us, and with that comes the eternal covenant promise, which You made with your only begotten Son before the world was.

Moses continues to intercede for Israel, reminding God that if He slays this people, all the miracles He did in Egypt would be made pointless to the Egyptians, and all the rest of the world. Moses continues by reminding God of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, who was formerly called Jacob. God hearing this repents of the evil He intended against this stiff-necked people. Repent does not mean here as we are to repent of our sins, but rather it means that God had **pity** upon these sinners, through the intercessory prayer of Moses, and did not carry through with their destruction. Look at the world today and see how great the pity of God is upon sinners.

How often do we see others get caught up in sinfulness, and we are quick to say things like; well, they had it coming, I knew they didn't amount to much, or some such slur against their character: rather than following Moses's quick defense that they are God's people and makes intercessory prayers for them. When we fail to defend God's people: is that an exhibition of godly love for one another? Absolutely not. However, we see Moses exhibiting godly love for his people, and so should we: because Jesus commands us to love one another.

Herein, we see the beautiful prophetic picture of Jesus our Saviour interceding for us before God. How is this manifested to us? What has stood between us, offending, sinful, man, and God's wrath of eternal destruction in the lake of fire? Only Jesus, the Christ. We see this in scripture in several places. Here is one, **Heb 7:25** ***Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.***" The picture being: Just as Moses is in the presence of God pleading for Israel to be forgiven of their sins: Jesus is forever in the presence of God the Father interceding for us, pleading his finished work on the cross, which guarantees our eternal security.

We see the picture of Moses reminding God of the eternal promises God had made to the forefathers of these sinners. We see the same picture in Jesus. Every time God sees our sins and is angry with us: Jesus is interceding at the right hand of the throne of God, and reminding God of the eternal covenant between them before the world was. The covenant being that Jesus would eternally remit all the sins, of all of God's people, and give unto them eternal life. Even today, Jesus is interceding for sinful man before an offended God, as seen in **1Pe 1:19-20; 18** ***"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: 20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, 21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."*** There are many scriptures that set before us the example of intercessory prayer, which is to the building up and edification of the people of God. Not ridiculing, degrading, or gossiping about others.

Another lesson we can learn from this is: just as Moses knew of the earlier covenants of God to Israel, we, God's chosen people, need to know what the whole bible teaches. Why? That we might have readily available the covenant promises of God, which we may use in our prayers for our own forgiveness, and in our intercessory prayers for our brothers and sisters in Christ, when we, or others, fail to be true disciples of Christ. This is why Jesus told us to pray to God the Father in His name. Why? Because Jesus is the one interceding for us, as Moses is here interceding for Israel.

Our heavenly Father, We thank you for our one true intercessor, Jesus Christ, your only begotten Son, who paid the debt of sin that we could not pay. We thank you that Jesus is still interceding for us as we stumble and fail, in our discipleship, along life's journey. We thank you for the surety of the covenant, which was sealed with the blood of Jesus, and gives us eternal security. We thank you for the eternal promise, to which we look forward, that in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, when we, and those who are alive and remain at the return of Christ are changed, will be 100% sinless and pure. We thank you, heavenly Father, that our Intercessor is alive forevermore, and we too shall live forever in the place He has gone to prepare for us. Hallelujah! Amen!