

EX. 32:11-13 “LORD,.....TURN FROM YOUR FIERCE WRATH”

Exo 32:9 And the LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people!

Exo 32:10 Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation."

Exo 32:11 Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?

Exo 32:12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

Exo 32:13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, 'I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' "

Exo 32:14 So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.

The Setting:

- In Ex. 20-23, God gives the law to Moses verbally and its practical application
- The people say they will do “*all the words that the Lord has said, we will do!*” (Ex. 24:3)
- In Chapter 24, Israel confirms the covenant. God calls Moses alone up to the mountain and was on the mountain forty days and forty nights.
- He was given instructions/blueprints for the tabernacle; for the priesthood and their consecration; the daily offerings; all the furnishing of the tabernacle; the Sabbath Law
- When God had finished speaking to Moses, He gave Moses two tables of the Testimony, tablets of stone written with the finger of God.
- *Exo 32:1 Now when the people saw that Moses delayed coming down from the mountain, the people gathered together to Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make us gods that shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." [2] And Aaron said to them, "Break off the golden earrings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." [3] So all the people broke off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them to Aaron. [4] And he received the gold from their hand, and he fashioned it with an engraving tool, and **made a molded calf**. Then they said, "**This is your god, O Israel, that brought you out of the land of Egypt!**" [5] So when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "**Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.**"*
- The Lord then said to Moses “*Go, get down...*” (Ex. 7-9)
- *Now therefore, let Me alone that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them....*” (Ex. 10a) – God is really saying, **unless you intercede for them, I will consume them**, which they deserve! **Notice the type of Christ here!**
- *And I will make of you a great nation.*” (Ex. 10b) Here, God offers Moses and his family a great opportunity to be the great nation that He will establish. **Had Moses been**

of a narrow selfish spirit, he would have closed with this offer; but he prefers the salvation of Israel before the advancement of his own family. Here was a man fit to be a governor.

1. THEN MOSES PLEADED...*Exo 32:11 Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: 'LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand?*

Exo 32:12 Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, 'He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people.

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NOTICE:

His prayer (*Exo 32:12*): *Turn from thy fierce wrath*; not as if he thought God was not justly angry, but he begs that he would not be so greatly angry as to consume them. "Let mercy rejoice against judgment; *repent of this evil*; change the sentence of destruction into that of correction."

His pleas. He fills his mouth with arguments, not to move God, but to express his own faith and to excite his own fervency in prayer. He urges,

- **God's interest in them**, the great things he had already done for them, and the vast expense of favors and miracles he had been at upon them,
- **He pleads the concern of God's glory** (*Exo 32:12*): *Wherefore should the Egyptians say, For mischief did he bring them out?* Israel is dear to Moses as his kindred, as his charge; but it is the glory of God that he is most concerned for; this lies nearer his heart than anything else. If Israel could perish without any reproach to God's name, Moses could persuade himself to sit down contented; but he cannot bear to hear God reflected on, and therefore this he insists upon, *Lord, what will the Egyptians say?*
- **The glorifying of God's name**, as it ought to be our first petition (it is so in the Lord's prayer), so it ought to be our great plea,
- **He pleads God's promise** to the patriarchs that he would multiply their seed, and give them the land of Canaan for an inheritance, and this promise confirmed by an oath, an oath by himself, since he could swear by no greater,

God relents! God graciously abated the harshness of the sentence, and *relented of the harm which He said He would do to His people.* (*Exo 32:14*); though he designed to punish them, yet he would not ruin them.

- The power of prayer; God suffers himself to be prevailed with by the humble believing importunity of intercessors.
- The compassion of God towards poor sinners, and how ready he is to forgive. Thus he has given other proofs besides his own oath that he has no pleasure in the death of those that die; for he not only pardons upon the repentance of sinners, but spares and reprieves upon the intercession of others for them.

SUMMARY:

- Oh, the awesome mercy and compassion of God! How He loves us!
- We sinners, as Israel, deserve only His wrath and destruction!
- Yet, He is open and really almost begging us to intercede.
- Notice the power of intercessory prayer!
- God relents! What a type of Christ!

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS

*1 On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
the emblem of suffering and shame;
and I love that old cross where the dearest and best
for a world of lost sinners was slain.*

Refrain:

*So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
and exchange it some day for a crown.*

*2. O that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
has a wondrous attraction for me;
for the dear Lamb of God left his glory above
to bear it to dark Calvary.*

(Refrain)

*3. In that old rugged cross, stained with blood so divine,
a wondrous beauty I see,
for 'twas on that old cross Jesus suffered and died,
to pardon and sanctify me.*

(Refrain)

*4. To that old rugged cross I will ever be true,
its shame and reproach gladly bear;
then he'll call me some day to my home far away,
where his glory forever I'll share.*

(Refrain)

HE'S ALIVE

*The gates and doors were barred and all the windows
fastened down, I spent the night in sleeplessness and rose at
every sound, Half in hopeless sorrow half in fear the
day, Would find the soldiers crashing through to drag us all
away. Then just before the sunrise I heard something at the
wall, The gate began to rattle and a voice began to call,
I hurried to the window and looked down to the street,
Expecting swords and torches and the sound of soldiers feet,*

*There was no one there but Mary so I went down to let her
in, John stood there beside me as she told us were she'd
been, She said they moved him in the night and none of us
knows where, The stones been rolled away and now his body
isn't there. We both ran toward the garden then John ran on
ahead, We found the stone and the empty tomb just the way
that Mary said, But the winding sheet they wrapped him in
was just an empty shell, And how or where they'd taken him
was more than I could tell.*

*Something strange had happened there but what I did not
know, John believed a miracle but I just turned to go,
Circumstance and speculation couldn't lift me very high,
Cause I'd seen them crucify him and then I'd watched him
die, Back inside the house again all the guilt and anguish
came, Everything I'd promised him just added to my shame,
But at last it came to choices I denied I knew his name,
Even If he was alive it wouldn't be the same.*

*But suddenly the air was filled with a strange and sweet
perfume, Light that came from everywhere drove shadows
from the room, Jesus stood before me with his arms held
open wide, And I fell down on my knees and clung to him and
cried, He raised me to my feet and as I looked into his
eyes, Love was shining out from him like sunlight from the
sky, Guilt and my confusion disappeared in sweet release,
And every fear I'd ever had just melted into peace.*

*He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven,
Heavens gates are open wide.
He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven,
Heavens gates are open wide.
He's alive, He's alive, He's alive and I'm forgiven,
Heavens gates are open wide.
He's alive!*