



**Deuteronomy 9:7-21**  
**“The Intercession of Moses”**

7 "Remember! Do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day that you departed from the land of Egypt until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against the LORD.

8 "Also in Horeb you provoked the LORD to wrath, so that the LORD was angry enough with you to have destroyed you.

9 "When I went up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which the LORD made with you, then I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water.

10 "Then the LORD delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them were all the words which the LORD had spoken to you on the mountain from the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.

11 "And it came to pass, at the end of forty days and forty nights, that the LORD gave me the two tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant.

12 "Then the LORD said to me, 'Arise, go down quickly from here, for your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly; they have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them; they have made themselves a molded image.'

13 "Furthermore the LORD spoke to me, saying, 'I have seen this people, and indeed they are a stiff-necked people.

14 'Let Me alone, that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven; and I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.'

15 "So I turned and came down from the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire; and the two tablets of the covenant were in my two hands.

16 "And I looked, and behold, you had sinned against the LORD your God -- had made for yourselves a molded calf! You had turned aside quickly from the way which the LORD had commanded you.

17 "Then I took the two tablets and threw them out of my two hands and broke them before your eyes.

18 "And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.

19 "For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also.

20 "And the LORD was very angry with Aaron and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time.

21 "Then I took your sin, the calf which you had made, and burned it with fire and crushed it and ground it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and I threw its dust into the brook that descended from the mountain.

The constant inclination of men's hearts is to think that the blessings they receive from the hand of the Lord are blessings that they have earned. So as the people of God are drawn up on the very edge of the

promised land they may be tempted to believe that it was their obedience that won them this blessing. Moses wants to drum into their heads that this is not the case, Remember Don't Forget – he uses two verbs for emphasis - *If you think you are inheriting the land because of your righteousness, think again. What do you have amnesia? You have been CONSTANTLY rebelling against the Lord since you left Egypt.* In order to show them that, in the midst of this great covenant renewal ceremony going on in the plains of Moab, Moses reminds them that their worst rebellion against God was the last time they had covenanted with God at Sinai (Horeb).

At the very point when the Covenant was being made, the Law being given, when they should have been most faithful, they rebelled. They created a false image of God and worshipped him according to the pagan ceremonies of the surrounding people. I won't go into this in detail as Chaplain Duncan covered the actual crime and why it was a violation of the first and second commandments. That point is that that they committed this act of rebellion almost immediately after they had assented to everything that was written in the Law. This was not some sort of grand oops, or sin of ignorance.

***Exodus 24:3 So Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the judgments. And all the people answered with one voice and said, "All the words which the LORD has said we will do."***

***4 And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD. And he rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel.***

***5 Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.***

***6 And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar.***

***7 Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient."***

***8 And Moses took the blood, sprinkled it on the people, and said, "This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words."***

But only days later, they had broken that solemn covenant.

God calls them Your People, Not My People

Leave me alone!

He threatens to blot them out, to destroy them utterly, even from the memory of men

Moses Comes down the mountain

Sees the evidence of their breaking of the Covenant – this calf and their abominable worship.

Shatters the two tablets of the Covenant, not out of anger, but to show that they had violated the covenant and deserved judgment

This means that the Israelites could NEVER claim that they had inherited the land and the blessings of the Lord on account of the righteousness or law keeping.

Unfortunately, it is the natural instinct of man to think he is saved via his own worthiness, some sort of works righteousness. It is amazing how deceived men can be...

***Luke 18:18 Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"***

***19 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God.***

**20 "You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' "**

**21 And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."**

**22 So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."**

**23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.**

Here the man thinks, he has kept all the commandments, and yet he has not even kept the first, *You shall have no other Gods before me.*

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

So it is up to Moses to intercede for the people. The Lord has said Moses get out of my way, but Moses would not, so he then prayed for the people – interceded for them – to intercede is to plead on someone else's behalf.

You and I might have difficulty pleading with the Lord for an hour in prayer. But Moses pleads non-stop for them, for 960 hours. He was miraculously enabled to do this by God.

**Deut 9:18 "And I fell down before the LORD, as at the first, forty days and forty nights; I neither ate bread nor drank water, because of all your sin which you committed in doing wickedly in the sight of the LORD, to provoke Him to anger.**

**19 "For I was afraid of the anger and hot displeasure with which the LORD was angry with you, to destroy you. But the LORD listened to me at that time also.**

The Lord is angry with Aaron as well and would have destroyed him; so I prayed for Aaron also at the same time."

The interesting thing is that Aaron had been appointed as a priest to make regular sacrifices for the sins of the people, and yet because of his sin in creating an image of God and lead the people in sinful worship, Aaron had not alleged that he was innocent, but had attempted to mitigate his guilt by saying that he was under compulsion, that will never however clear us, indeed his sin is greater because he was in charge and supposedly setting a good example. (application to fathers and pastors). Moses now has to intercede for him as well.

Israel, from top to bottom, with the exception of Moses and Joshua is guilty – how therefore could they think their salvation was on account of anything save grace.

**Psalm 106:23 Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood before Him in the breach, To turn away His wrath, lest He destroy them.**

What they deserved was destruction, not blessing, but they obtained salvation, because God appointed for them an intercessor. Someone to stand in the breach and plead on their behalf. Please note, that it was God who had raised up Moses and commissioned Him to this most difficult role. But while Moses was a type of Great Mediator, even he could never turn aside the wrath of God for sin. He himself was a sinner, he could not therefore make atonement for our sins. And he was but a man, the wrath of God falling upon Him would have utterly destroyed him. Moses points us then to the greatest mediator.

*Is. 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

*7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.*

*8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.*

*9 And they made His grave with the wicked -- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.*

*10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.*

*11 He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.*

*12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.*

*Heb. 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.*

*26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens;*

*27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*

*Romans 8:33 Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.*

*34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

'I remember, a few years ago,' says George Burder of London, in his sermon on the Value of the Soul, 'that a boy, who was sent upon some errand on a cold winter evening, was overtaken by a dreadful storm. The snow fell so thick, and drifted in such a manner, that he missed his way; and, continuing to wander up and down for several hours, was ready to perish. About midnight, a gentleman in the neighborhood thought he heard a sound, but he could not imagine what it was, till opening his window, he distinguished a human voice, at a great distance, pronouncing in a piteous tone, "Lost! lost! lost!" Humanity induced the gentleman to send in search of the person from whom the voice proceeded, when the boy, at length, was found and preserved. Happy for him that he perceived his danger, that he cried for help, and that his cry was heard! So will it be happy for us, if; sensible of the value of our souls, and their danger of perishing in hell, we now cry out for mercy and help, to that dear and gracious Friend of sinners, that great and generous Deliverer, who "came to seek and to save that which was lost." But if this be neglected, the soul will be lost indeed, lost without remedy, lost for ever.'