

Part 6 – The Blessing of Intercession

In part 5 we learned how Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (along with 250 ‘princes’ of Israel) ‘rose up’ *against* Moses, and Aaron, and accused *them* of ‘lifting themselves up’ above *all the others*. In other words, they were accusing Moses and Aaron of *making themselves* rulers over the nation of Israel. And really, that’s nearly calling them ‘dictators’! What this boils down to is that these men were making a ‘power grab’ - or, as we’d say today, a ‘coup’ - to overthrow the *legitimate* government that the Lord (YHVH) had established. And we also learned what caused them to do this: *envy*, which means a *painful, or resentful, awareness of an advantage enjoyed by another, joined with a desire to possess the same advantage*. But, we also learned Moses and Aaron were both *chosen by the Lord*, YHVH (Ex 3:10, 4:16, 7:1, etc.). And that’s *why* our Heavenly Father put these men (the leaders of the rebellion) to death in quite a spectacular way: by causing the earth to *literally* open up (a hole opened up), ‘swallow them’ (they *fell into* the hole) and cover them up (the hole closed up, as miraculously as it opened)! And then the Lord (YHVH) caused fire to come down from heaven, and literally kill the other rebel leaders (who represented the other tribes). And, because the Lord (YHVH) killed off the rebels in such a *spectacular* way (not normal; it had never happened before), it *proved* that Moses and Aaron were not trying to ‘lord over’ the Israelites and, thus, they *truly were* appointed by God (YHVH) to govern the nation.

And this is a *very good* lesson for us today too, to teach us *why* we should *not* be rebellious. Not only should we obey the laws of the nation we live in (so long as they don’t demand we disobey God’s Laws) but, first and foremost, we should obey our Heavenly Father! And even if the Laws of the land demand we disobey the Lord (YHVH), *we still shouldn’t be insurrectionists*. Rather, we are to simply *non-comply* with their wicked demands *regardless* of what they do to us. People like Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego (Dan 6 and 3) show us how the Lord (YHVH) is fully able to save us from the wickedness of *any* government, **if** we remain *faithful* (and are not rebellious) to the Lord (YHVH) our God. And even if our fate is to die, for obeying the Lord (YHVH) (i.e. obeying and sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ), we are promised *great* rewards in heaven (Matt 5:10-12); which means obtaining *eternal* life and being allowed to serve in Jesus Christ’s righteous government, when He returns to rule the world forevermore (Rev 20:4-6). So, envy really is a terrible sin (of the *heart*) and can cause us to do terrible sins *outwardly*. This is the main ‘lesson from history’ we learned in our last study. Yet, the Psalmist is still not done teaching us from history...

Psalm 106

19 They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image.

Now the Psalmist is ‘going back’ in history, to an event that happened *many* years before the rebellion of Korah, Dathan and Abiram (recorded in Num 16). This account, in Horeb, is written of in Exodus 32 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/239]. And, it’s important to understand

that this was *not* very long after the Lord (YHVH) had freed them from cruel bondage, to the Egyptians. Thus, it was also *not* too long since Israel had *literally* witnessed many marvelous miracles via the ten plagues of Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea and being saved from the Egyptian army - by the *same* sea that the Lord caused them to cross safely over. Further, it was also *not* long after the Lord had *personally* come down to Mount Sinai and gave Israel His Laws, which is recorded in Exodus 19 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/78]. Moses summed it up rather well, in Deut 4:12-13, when he said: *And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And he declared unto you his covenant, which he commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and he wrote them upon two tables of stone.* So, while Israel didn't actually see the Lord (YHVH) they **did literally hear Him speak to them** and they also saw His 'glory', which is described in Ex 24:17 to be like a *devouring fire on the top of the mount.*

And then - after the Lord (YHVH) literally spoke to *all* of the children of Israel, and gave them His Laws (Ex 20-23) - He then called Moses, Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel to come up to the Mountain (Ex 24:1) where Moses clearly laid out the terms (to the elders, who were representatives for all of Israel) for the *national* covenant God was proposing Israel make with Him. After the elders agreed (swore to obey) the covenant was literally sealed with blood. As Ex 24:8 says, *Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words.* And then, Moses put Aaron, and Hur, in charge of the entire nation of Israel, while he stayed up on the mountain (Ex 24:8-11). And, the *entire* time Moses was up on the mountain (getting instructions from God, Ex 25-31), the children of Israel were able to see God's glory, which was *like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel* (Ex 24:18). And, a critical thing for us to understand is that Moses was only gone for forty days and forty nights (Ex 24:18)... that means it only took forty days (and nights) for the children of Israel to say to Aaron: Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him (Ex 32:1).

And what's really disappointing about this is that *Aaron obeyed them!* In fact, he was the one who told the children of Israel to bring him gold (from their earrings) and *fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf.* Not only that, Aaron also *built an altar* before the dumb idol (the golden calf) and *made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD* (Ex 32:2-5)! So, it only took forty days for Israel to lose faith that Moses would return (one wonders why they didn't send out a search party or something) **and** to lose faith in the God (YHVH) of their forefathers Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel! As Acts 7:39 so rightly says, ***in their hearts they turned back again into Egypt***, which means they desired to be slaves again! As Paul points out, *to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness* (Rom 6:16). So, when we

sin, *we are in bondage to it* (Rom 6:20) and that *always* brings about our death (Rom 6:21,23); first in the flesh body (1 Cor 10:7-11) and, eventually (without repentance) it'll bring about the death of our very soul and spirit too (Rev 20:10-15).

Now, the word '**Horeb**' here (in Ps 106:19) means *desolate*, but it's simply *a generic name for the Sinaitic mountains* (#2722), i.e. **Mount Sinai**. The *Companion Bible* has a note explaining that Mount Sinai is referred to as Horeb here because it was the 'higher name' (i.e. the 'mount of God', Ex 3:1, 1 Kings 19:8) and thus shows the *heinousness* of Israel's sin. And the word '**calf**' here means *a (male) calf (as frisking round)*, *especially one nearly grown* (i.e. a steer) (#5695). Note the point that it's a male calf 'as frisking round', for this is how the children of Israel acted when they were worshipping the idol (Ex 32:6). And the word '**worship**' means *to depress*, i.e. **prostrate** (especially reflexive, in homage to royalty or God) (#7812). So, the children of Israel literally prostrated themselves down to a dumb idol, *which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell* (Deut 4:28; Dan 5:23; Rev 9:20).

And then the words '**molten image**' mean *a pouring over*, i.e. *fusion of metal (especially a cast image)* (#4541). So, it was *definitely* something **they made**, not something that they just 'cast into the fire' and miraculously 'came out as an image', as Aaron professed (Ex 32:24). However, as Jesus explained (in Mth 15 and Mk 7) our outward sins truly come from *what's in our heart*. Again, that's why Acts 7:39 says, *in their hearts they turned back again into Egypt*. Therefore, even though many people living today doesn't make idols of wood, stone or precious metals (and literally bow down to them), many people **do** worship false gods and idols (that represent them) *because of what goes on in their heart* (desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) *and mind* (thoughts). Therefore, **the imaginations of our heart** (and mind) **is** (and *always has been*) **the root of idolatry!** Thus, we worship false gods, and idols (such as money, entertainment, physical things, etc.), today by *what we imagine*, and *desire*, in our own mind and heart. You can learn more about this in the following studies...

No Other Gods <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1015>

Graven Images <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1017>

Idolatry in Our Day <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/1119>

Psalms 106

20 Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass.

Now, this verse is still referring to the incident where Israel made a golden calf on Mount Sinai (Horeb) *and worshipped it*, which the prior verse (19) speaks about. The word '**changed**' here means *to alter* and, by implication, can even mean *to barter* or *to dispose of* (#4171). And then the word '**glory**' here means *weight* (but only figuratively, in a good sense), *splendor* or *copiousness* (#3519). The *Companion Bible* has a note explaining that the 'ancient custodians'

(Sopherim) changed this word from *Yehovah's* glory to 'their' glory, out of mistaken reference to God's Sacred name. They did this a lot (throughout the Old Testament) with the word 'Lord'; for many times (as is noted throughout these studies) when you see the word 'Lord', it's *actually* God's Sacred name, Yehovah (#3068, i.e. YHVH - <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/946>). You can check out appendixes 32 and 33 [<https://t.me/BestStudyBible/12>] in the *Companion Bible* to learn more about this. So, while the children of Israel could *literally* see the glory of God (YHVH), *as a devouring fire*, on the top of Mount Sinai (Ex 24:17), **they chose to change** (alter) **God's glory** into the 'similitude' (resemblance, #8403) of an 'ox' (a bullock #7794) that eats grass. As Paul wrote, in Rom 1:23 (speaking of the idolaters in his own day, which proves there's nothing new, Ecc 1:9), they ***changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things*** (consider this in view of what's coming: Rev 13:11-18). Jer 9:24 tells us that, what we should 'glory' in is understanding, and knowing, the *true* God Almighty, Yehovah (#3068, i.e. YHVH). And Jesus taught us *why*, in John 17:3, when He said: *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent*. But glorying in false gods, and idols, will only lead us to death, even of our 'inner man (Rom 6:23, Rev 20:10-15).

So, while we may find it hard to understand *how* Israel could do something like that, consider how many people have the written Word of God available to them today (and many other study tools to help us understand it, such as the *Strong's Concordance*) yet, *they don't study it!* Instead, they enjoy listening to preachers, pastors, reverence, priests (etc.) once or twice a week *and believing what they say* - without ever checking them out in God's Word (2 Tim 2:15). So, they too would rather listen to someone *they can see* rather than studying God's Word, to develop an *intimate* relationship with our Heavenly Father, who *we cannot see* (Col 1:15; 1 Tim 1:17; Heb 11:27). Therefore, of a truth, many people today also change God's glory *by twisting His Word* (the Bible) *to fit their narrative*, i.e. their traditions and doctrines! As this happened in Jesus' day also (Mth 15:1-9; Mk 7:1-13), and when the apostles lived too (Rom 1:18-25), there really isn't anything new (Ecc 1:9).

And that's why it *won't be hard* for Satan to deceive people when he's kicked out of heaven, to earth (Rev 12:7-17) [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/472>]. For, just like in the days of Moses, people (false prophets and teachers, 2 Cor 10:13-15) ***still change the truth of God into a lie***, worshipping and serving *the creature more than the Creator* (Rom 1:25). That's why Paul warns us (in 2 Thess 2) that the ***true*** Jesus Christ *won't* be returning *until two* things happen. The first is a 'falling away', which means ***apostasy***. That's when people who know the truth (Christians) will divorce the truth and (spiritually) marry a lie, i.e. they'll fall away from their faith in the true Jesus and believe that Satan is the Savior. That's why teaching traditions, instead of God's Word, is so dangerous. For it *sets Christians up to worship Satan as 'God our Savior' instead of* waiting for the *true* Jesus Christ to return. You can more about this in the studies on Apostasy below...

The Apostasy – Part 1 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/499>

The Apostasy – Part 2 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/500>

The Apostasy – Part 3 <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/501>

Psalm 106

21 *They forgot God their saviour, which had done great things in Egypt;*

22 *Wondrous works in the land of Ham, and terrible things by the Red sea.*

Now these verses explain *why* Israel made, and worshipped, a ‘molten image’ (the idol of a golden calf). It was because they ‘forgot’ (were oblivious from want of memory or attention, #7911) that God (the Almighty God who is Omnipotent, #410) was their Savior (the one who freed and saved them, #3467). In other words, they forgot all the ‘wondrous works’ (great, difficult and wonderful things, #6381) the Lord (YHVH) had done for them in Egypt (i.e. the ‘land of Ham’) *and* all the ‘terrible things’ (awesome, and frightful things, that put the ‘fear of God’ into them, #3372) He did for them in the Red Sea, i.e. parting the Red Sea so they could cross over safely yet, causing it to then kill all the Egyptian army. And it wasn’t like they forgot over the span of many years; they forgot over the span of mere *months*!

Psalm 106

23 *Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.*

This verse is still speaking of the account written in Exodus 32, when the children of Israel made a golden calf (idol) and worshipped it. As we learned, they did this *only* forty days and nights after Moses was up in Mount Sinai, getting instructions from the Lord (YHVH). Interestingly, the number of days, and nights, Moses was up on the mount (which was truly a time of testing for Israel) is the *same amount of time* that Jesus fasted in the wilderness, *and* was tempted of the Devil (Matt 4:2; Mark 1:13; Luke 4:2). Ex 34:28 tells us that Moses also fasted forty days and nights (when he was up on the mount), which is yet another reason why he’s a ‘type’ of the Messiah (Jesus Christ). But, unlike the children of Israel (which failed miserably at being faithful to the Lord, YHVH), neither Moses, nor Jesus, failed in faith (or obedience) to the Lord, even when they fasted for so long. In fact, Jesus Christ didn’t ever sin His *entire* life, (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5) – not even when the Devil tempted Him *and* not even though His flesh body was incredibly weak from fasting for so long. As Paul wrote in Hebrews 4, *we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin* (vs 15). And that’s why Jesus is able to help us out of **any** temptations, or hard times, that come upon us. For He’s *experienced* the difficulty of living life in the flesh body and thus, *knows what it’s like*. And **that’s** what makes Him such a

compassionate High Priest (vs 15), which is why Paul encouraged us to *come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need* (vs 16).

So then (getting back to Ps 106:23), this verse tells us God's initial reaction after He saw the children of Israel making an idol and worshipping it. Though He (and Moses) were up on the mountain, God still saw what they were doing! Truly, no sins are hidden from His sight. As Moses wrote in Ps 90:9: *Thou hast set our iniquities before thee, our secret sins in the light of thy countenance*. And that's the same for all of God's children, throughout all time, even yet today. For He can still read our heart (desires, emotions, intentions and motivations) and mind (thoughts) and thus knows even what we're *thinking about doing* (mind), along with what we *truly desire* (heart) (1 Chron 28:9; Ps 44:20-21, 94:11; Jer 16:17, Jer 17:9-10; Ezek 11:5; Heb 4:12-13, etc.). And, needless to say, our Heavenly Father was not at all pleased that Israel was making a golden calf and worshipping it. As it is written...

*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 stiffnecked 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.

Ex 32:7-10

Notice how our Heavenly Father 'disowned' Israel when He saw what they were doing! He called Israel 'thy people' which 'thou' broughtest out of the land of Egypt (when speaking to Moses), because they *so* quickly corrupted themselves. And, this then is when (and why) He threatened to '**consume**' them, which means *to end* (cease, finish, perish) or *to consume* (#3615). And that's why (in Psalm 106:23) God said He would '**destroy**' Israel (which means to *make desolate*, (#8045)). But Moses (who had not seen what Israel was doing) spoke to our Heavenly Father, and brought up several valid points as to why He *shouldn't* do so...

*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 **for ever**.*

14 And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

Ex 32:11-14

So, when this vs 23 (in Ps 106) says that Moses ‘stood before Him’ ‘to turn away His wrath’ ‘lest He should destroy (ruin, #7843) them’, it’s referring to this account in Ex 32:11-14, when Moses pointed out Israel was truly the Lord’s people, for He was the one that brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand (not Moses). Yet Moses also pointed out what the Egyptians would say about God then destroying them all, *and* also (more importantly) reminded God (YHVH) that He had made an *unconditional* promise to Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel to multiply their seed (descendants) as the stars of heaven, and give the ‘land of Canaan’ to them as an inheritance forever (Gen 12:1-7, Gen 13:14-17, Gen 15:4-5, 18-21, Gen 17:1-11,15-21, Gen 22:15-18, Gen 26:2-5, Gen 28:10-15, Gen 35:9-13). However, since Moses was also a descendant of Abraham, Issac and Jacob/Israel, even if the Lord (YHVH) had destroyed all of the children of Israel - and used Moses’ children to bring forth the promises God gave to Abrham, Issac and Jacob/Israel – He, truly, would *not* have broken His promise to those men. *But*, the time frame for Israel inheriting the Promise Land wouldn’t have been in accordance to what the Lord (YHVH) had promised Abraham (in Gen 15:12-15). So, that’s likely why the Lord (YHVH) harkened to Moses, and didn’t destroy all of Israel. However, He *did* punish them, for their grievous sin (idolatry), by send a plague among them (Ex 32:35). And He did so *because* their making an idol, and worshipping it, truly did *break* the covenant they had so *recently* made with the Lord (YHVH). And that’s why this Ps 106:23 says that Moses (who was indeed a chosen servant of the Lord, YHVH) ‘stood before Him in the breach’. The word ‘**breach**’ means *a break* (#6556), which is *exactly* what Israel did. God commanded them (in the first and second commandment) not to have *any* other Gods before Him *and* not to make any graven images (Ex 20:3-5). But, they did so (as recorded in Ex 20) and that truly was ‘breaking’ His commandment, even though they had sworn to obey Him (in Ex 19:8 and in 24:3).

So, we see another reason Moses was a type for the Messiah, Jesus Christ. For he interceded for Israel when the Lord (YHVH) was (rightly) angry at them. Likewise, Jesus Christ is *at the right hand of God*, also *making intercession for us* (Rom 8:34). Therefore, through Jesus Christ’s intercession *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* (Heb 7:25). **And that’s really a critical point in this great ‘history lesson’ we should always remember.** For without our accepting the precious blood of Jesus Christ, that atones for our sins (Rom 5:11), we cannot avoid God’s wrath either. And His wrath *will* be poured out upon all *unrepentant* sinners, when Jesus Christ returns. But it will *not* be poured out upon those who *faithfully* believe in Jesus Christ (our intercessor) *because* they have *sincerely* repented for their sins, believe in Jesus’ atoning blood, *and* allowed the Holy Spirit to change their heart, and mind, so that they willing strive to obey the Lord, and not worshiped anything (or anyone else), despite the temptation to do so (when Satan comes to the earth claiming to be ‘God’, Rev 12-13; 2 Thess 2, etc.)...

1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:
2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.
3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that **tribulation worketh patience**;
4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
5 And hope maketh not ashamed; **because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us**.
6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.
7 For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die.
8 But **God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**.
9 **Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him**.
10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, **much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life**.
11 And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Rom 5:1-11

6 Therefore **let us not sleep**, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.
7 For they that sleep sleep in the night; and they that be drunken are drunken in the night.
8 But **let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation**.
9 For **God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ**.
10 Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.
11 Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.
1 Thess 5:6-11

We'll pick this up in part 7...

AMEN.