

# Exodus 32 – 9 July 2020

## “The Need For An Intercessor”

### Introduction

Moses has come up to top of Mt Sinai for 40 days. God will give him & Israel 2 things:

1. The Law – We’ve seen this in chapter 19-24
2. The Tabernacle – in chapter 25-31

The Law – how to represent God to the world

The Tabernacle – God representing Himself to Israel

25-27 – Most parts of Tabernacle; these represent Jesus Christ (**Christ’s part**)

28-29 – The High Priest and other priests (**Mediator**)

30-31 – Rest of parts of Tabernacle; these represent our part in redemption (**Our Part**)

Just as the High Priest will be on-going intercessor, Moses is the intercessor for establishing the Law & Israel relationship w/ God

Webster def. – A mediator; one who interposes between parties at variance w/ a view to reconcile them

**Today, we see 6 levels of greatness for an Intercessor....but first, we need to see the problem**

# **Why We Need An Intercessor (Chap 32:1-10)**

Read Chap 32:1-6

1. Vs 4 - Made this calf and ascribed all of God's good deeds to it.
  - a. They didn't abandon God, they made Him the way they wanted Him to be
  - b. That's the definition of idolatry
2. Vs 1 - A "delay" from God isn't permission to take the reins and do what we want
3. Stephen's retelling in Acts 7
  - a. "Their hearts were turned back to Egypt"
  - b. They "rejoiced in works of their own hands"
4. Now feel like they're in charge & they party
  - a. Read Rom 1:22-25
  - b. Abusing & changing God into less than He is (Divine, perfect) will lead to abusing & changing people into less than who we are (created in His image for salvation)

## Read Chap 32:7-10

1. God says Israel is corrupt, stiffnecked
  - a. Just had to take path God lay before them
  - b. Destroyed b/c went their own way
2. We constantly fight against the devil's attempts to take us back into the world to indulge in flesh
3. Vs 10 – God often speaks to allow us a chance to see what is in our own hearts.
  - a. Cain – “Where is your brother?”
  - b. “Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do?” (Going to Sodom)
  - c. God looking to see Moses heart for people
  - d. Moses WILL step up to be their intercessor!

## **1<sup>st</sup> Level – A Regular Intercessor Will Plead The Cause (Chap 32:11-14)**

Read Chap 32:11-12

1. The Intercessor pleads on the basis that God has bound Himself to this people
2. Read Gal 3:19 – Moses was that mediator
  - a. God bound Himself to them by giving them the Law, Tabernacle & His promise of a Savior

Read Chap 32:13-14

1. The Intercessor pleads on the basis of God's promises.
2. God wants us to hold on to His promises
3. Even asks us to test or prove Him (Mal 3:10)

Jesus Pleads Our Cause

1. Jesus has bound Himself to us eternally
  - a. No one can take us from Father's hand
2. Jesus pleads for us based on God's promises
  - a. Read II Cor 1:19-22 – Promises are held up

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Level – A Good Intercessor Will Provide Good Things (Chap 32:15-20)**

Read Chap 32:15-18

1. Moses, as Intercessor, has been sacrificing his comfort to provide God's will/plan and God's Law
2. He's coming to find Israel quickly turned away

Read Chap 32:19-20

1. Moses, as Intercessor, shows them clearly, that what they're doing IS breaking the Law, just as He demonstrates by "breaking the Law".

Jesus Came To Provide Us With Good Things

1. Jesus, as Intercessor, sacrificed His own comfort to provide us God's Way, Truth & Life (Read Matt 20:28)
2. Reminds us of when Jesus kicked out moneychangers from the Temple.
  - a. Jesus, as Intercessor, showed us the good by getting rid of the bad

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Level – An Uncommon Intercessor Point The Right Way (Chap 32:21-24)**

Read Chap 32:21-24

1. Aaron gives 2 excuses for this great idolatry
  - a. Vs 22 - People can't be persuaded from sin
  - b. Vs 24 – I wasn't involved w/ the specifics
    - i. Vs 24 - “Out came this calf” either means
      1. The calf was a miracle
      2. It wasn't me that did this
      3. Either way he's shifting blame
2. A truly Uncommon Intercessor would not only not be helping them in evil, but he would be pointing them in the right way.

Jesus Points Us In The Right Way

1. As Psm 23:3 – “He leads me in paths of righteousness...for His name's sake.
  - a. B/c His reputation is bound to us
2. Read John 16:13-14 – Jesus leads us by H.S.
3. When looking at sinners; do u help or join them?

## **4<sup>th</sup> Level – An Epic Intercessor Precipitates Correction (Chap 32:25-29)**

Read Chap 32:25-29

1. Vs 25 – “Unto the shame of their enemies”
  - a. Aaron was aiding their evil even while other Israelites were opposed to this idolatry
2. Vs 26 – “Who’s on Lord’s side”
  - a. Moses, as Intercessor, is interested in bring people BACK to the Lord, not to himself
3. So the call to correction emboldens Levities to good!
  - a. Vs 29 – Coming back to good brings blessing!
  - b. The ship needs righted; nothing else can be blessed until there’s real change

Jesus Precipitates Correction For Us

1. Read II Tim 3:16 - The Word (John 1:14) provides us continual correction
2. 3,000 die at Law, but 3,000 saved at Pentecost

## **5<sup>th</sup> Level – A Legendary Intercessor Offers to Pay The Debt Himself (Chap 32:30-35)**

Read Chap 32:30

1. Interesting that many people miss ‘correcting the problem’ first, THEN come w/ an apology.
2. Try that w/ adultery, doesn’t work.

Read Chap 32:31-32

1. Moses as Intercessor, offers to take their place.
  - a. To receive their punishment
  - b. To give them his reward

Read Chap 32:33-35

1. Moses offer was real in his eyes, but not sufficient in God’s eyes.
2. Every man shall pay for his own sins
3. Vs 35 – This plague is the death of the 3,000



## **6<sup>th</sup> Level – Only A Divine Intercessor Will Actually Pay The Debt Himself**

Jesus was worthy to take our place

1. Moses was willing, but as a sinful man, he was unworthy to pay for his own sins let alone others.
2. Jesus was tested/tempted yet without sin
3. Jesus, as Intercessor, received our punishment on the cross
  - a. Separation from God, the weight of sin
4. Jesus, as Intercessor, gave us His reward
  - a. Eternal life with God in perfection, never to die again
5. Read I Tim 2:5-6
  - a. It will be proven “in due time” that those in right standing with God in eternity
    - i. Aren’t those who worked hard at goodness
    - ii. It’s those that had the perfect Divine Intercessor at their side on Judgement Day

## Conclusion

### So 6 Levels of Greatness for an Intercessor

- 1. A Regular Intercessor Pleads Our Cause**
  - a. Jesus has bound Himself to our cause
- 2. A Good Intercessor Provides Good Things**
  - a. Jesus sacrificed His own union w/ the Father to provide us the Truth
- 3. An Uncommon Intercessor Points The Right Way**
  - a. Jesus leads us in paths of righteousness
- 4. An Epic Intercessor Precipitates Correction**
  - a. His Word continually brings us closer to Father
- 5. A Legendary Intercessor Offers To Pay The Debt Himself**
  - a. “Scarcely for a righteous man will one die”
- 6. Only A Divine Intercessor Will Actually Pay The Debt Himself**
  - a. Jesus paid our debt even while we were yet rebels against Him