

# 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 bringing 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