

3ABN SABBATH SCHOOL PANEL
011 - LESSON – Wednesday – September 10, 2025

GOD’S RIGHTEOUS WRATH

Exodus 32:9-29 (NKJV) “(9) And the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and indeed it is a stiff-necked people! (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.” (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? (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. (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.’ ” (14) So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people. (15) And Moses turned and went down from the mountain, and the two tablets of the Testimony were in his hand. The tablets were written on both sides; on the one side and on the other they were written. (16) Now the tablets were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God engraved on the tablets. (17) And when Joshua heard the noise of the people as they shouted, he said to Moses, “There is a noise of war in the camp.” (18) But he said: “It is not the noise of the shout of victory, Nor the noise of the cry of defeat, But the sound of singing I hear.” (19) So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses’ anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. (20) Then he took the calf which they had made, burned it in the fire, and ground it to powder; and he scattered it on the water and made the children of Israel drink it. (21) And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?” (22) So Aaron said, “Do not let the anger of my lord become hot. You know the people, that they are set on evil. (23) For they said to me, “Make us gods that shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ (24) And I said to them, “Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.” (25) Now when Moses saw that the people were unrestrained (for Aaron had not restrained them, to their shame among their enemies), (26) then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, “Whoever is on the LORD’S side—come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him. (27) And he said to them, “Thus says the LORD God of Israel: ‘Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.’ ” (28) So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about three thousand men of the people fell that day. (29) Then

Moses said, “Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, that He may bestow on you a blessing this day, for every man has opposed his son and his brother.””

What was Moses’ reaction to God’s threat to destroy Israel?

While Moses was still on Mount Sinai, God said that He would destroy the rebels and make Moses’ posterity into a great nation. But that was not what Moses wanted. Instead, he pleaded with the Lord, pointing out that the Israelites were not Moses’ people—they were God’s. He, Moses himself, had not brought them out of Egypt, but God had done it through His mighty works. And so Moses pled with God, stressing His early promises to the fathers. Moses was truly working as an intercessor between God and humanity.

1. After the “Lord relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people” (*Exod. 32:14, NKJV*), Moses returned to them. There is no record—unlike what would happen in Exodus 34:29, 30—that his face shone from the presence of the Lord. His face probably reflected his anger.

Exodus 32:14 (NKJV) “So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.”

2. “When Moses approached the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, his anger burned and he threw the tablets out of his hands, breaking them to pieces at the foot of the mountain”

Exodus 32:19 (NKJV) “So it was, as soon as he came near the camp, that he saw the calf and the dancing. So Moses’ anger became hot, and he cast the tablets out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain.”

Breaking the tablets containing the Decalogue was an external sign of breaking its content. God rebuked Moses for it, but later He commanded Moses to chisel two tablets to replace ‘the first tablets, which you broke.

3. Moses sharply rebuked Aaron for surrendering to the demands of the people:
Exodus 32:21 (NKJV) “And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought so great a sin upon them?”

4. Aaron tried to excuse his transgression by (1) blaming others, and (2) by magic: ‘I threw it [the gold] into the fire, and out came this calf!

Exodus 32:24 (NKJV) “And I said to them, “Whoever has any gold, let them break it off.’ So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire, and this calf came out.”

What a dark irony! By claiming that a miracle had happened, Aaron wanted to trick his brother (notice how one sin leads to another; in this case, idolatry to lying). However,

Moses was not fooled as he saw how wildly the people behaved. The negative consequences were evident, and Moses had to stop the rebellion immediately.

What should this story teach us about the power of intercessory prayer? Whom should you be praying for right now?

PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER:

1. Don't Loose heart:
 - a. **Luke 18:1 (NKJV) "Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart."**
2. Constant Prayer prepares us for discernment to escape the pitfalls of the world:
 - a. **Luke 21:36 (NKJV) "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."**
3. Intercessory prayer on behalf of others:
 - a. **Romans 1:9 (NKJV) "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers."**
4. Pray and be watchful:
 - a. **Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—"**
5. Pray for self-spiritual sustenance:
 - a. **Matthew 26:41 (NKJV) "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak."**