

Texts on Anger and Sacrifice #3

Exodus 32 ³⁰ Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin (גְּדֹלָה גְּדֹלָה). So now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin (בְּעַד בְּעַד אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם).”

³¹ Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Oh, this people has sinned a great sin (גְּדֹלָה גְּדֹלָה) and have made for themselves a god of gold!

³² Yet now, if You will forgive their sin (אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם)—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.”

³³ And the Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me (אֲשֶׁר עָשָׂה), I will blot him out of My book. ³⁴ Now therefore, go, lead the people to where I told you about. Behold, My Angel shall go before you. Nevertheless, in the day when I visit for punishment, I will visit punishment upon them for their sin (אֲשֶׁר עָשִׂיתֶם).”

³⁵ So the Lord plagued the people because of what they did with the calf which Aaron made.

Hebrews 5 ¹ For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things regarding God (τὰ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν), that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

Romans 9 ¹ I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish (ἠύχομην) to be accursed (ἀνάθεμα) from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my relatives according to the flesh (τῶν συγγενῶν μου κατὰ σάρκα), ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom belong the sonship (ἡ υἱοθεσία), the glory, the covenants, the gift of the Law (νομοθεσία), the worship and the promises; ⁵ of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh (κατὰ σάρκα), is Christ, who is over all, God blest unto the ages. Amen.

St. Symeon the New Theologian, *Book of Divine Love*, Homily 54.1 — I know a man who desired the salvation of his brethren so fervently that he often sought God with burning tears and with his whole heart, in an excess of zeal worthy of Moses, that either his brethren might be saved with him, or that he might be condemned with them. For he was bound to them in the Holy Spirit by such a bond of love that he did not even wish to enter the kingdom of heaven if to do so meant being separated from them.