

claimed a feast, offered burnt offerings, and brought peace-offerings to it, and said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt." "And the Lord said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiff-necked people; now, therefore, let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may destroy them; and I will make of thee a great nation. 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? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, for mischief did he 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. 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 forever."

This is the prayer of Moses. And what did God do? Why, He was not able to withstand the pleading of His servant. Moses took hold of the strength of the Lord, and rebellious Israel was saved; for we read, "And the Lord repented of the evil which he thought to do unto the people."

Another remarkable example of the power of prayer occurs in the history of Elijah. Israel had apostatized from Jehovah, and had adopted the worship of Baal. Elijah had called upon them, in the name of Jehovah, to abandon their idolatry and to return to the Lord, but they still persisted in the worship of idols. He then cried for the righteous retribution of heaven upon them, in order that they might learn what an evil and bitter thing it is for a people to forsake God. He prayed that it might not rain, and God shut up the heavens so that for the space of three years and six months not a drop of rain or dew fell upon the land.

But you will perhaps say, Elijah was a prophet; he was one of God's princes; I cannot hope for such success in prayer. Then hear how the apostle James deals with your unbelief:—"Elias was a man of like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

One other illustration of the power of prayer from scripture. Herod, the king, stretched forth his hand to vex certain of the church. He