

# Psalms 106:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore he said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest he should destroy them.

## Analysis

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This verse describes Moses's intercessory role during the golden calf crisis. 'Therefore he said that he would destroy them' shows God's righteous intention to judge the idolatrous nation. 'Had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach' uses military imagery—Moses stood in the gap like a defender in a breached wall. 'Stood before him' indicates priestly intercession (Deuteronomy 10:8). 'To turn away his wrath' shows Moses's prayer averted deserved judgment. This prefigures Christ's intercessory work—standing between God's wrath and sinful humanity (1 Timothy 2:5). Moses's intercession (Exodus 32:11-14, 30-34) demonstrates covenant mediator principles: an appointed representative pleads for mercy on behalf of guilty people.

## Historical Context

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Exodus 32:7-14 records God's anger and intention to destroy Israel and start over with Moses. Moses interceded, appealing to God's glory among nations, His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and His covenant faithfulness. God 'repented of the evil' He said He would do—anthropomorphic language showing Moses's intercession was effective. This established the pattern of prophetic intercession seen throughout Israel's history (cf. Abraham for Sodom, Samuel for Israel, Jeremiah for Judah).

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Moses's intercession prefigure Christ's mediatorial work?
2. What does 'standing in the breach' teach about the role of intercessory prayer?
3. How should God's willingness to hear intercession affect our prayer life?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיֹּאמֶר	לְהַשְׁמֵ יָדָם	לֹא י	מֹשֶׁה	בְּחִירוֹ
Therefore he said	that he would destroy	them had not	Moses	his chosen
H559	H8045	H3884	H4872	H972
עָמַד	בְּפֶרֶץ	לִפְנֵי י	חַמַּת ו	מִהִשְׁחִית:
stood	him in the breach	before	to turn away	his wrath
H5975	H6556	H6440	H7725	H2534
				H7843

## Additional Cross-References

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**Deuteronomy 9:25** (Parallel theme): Thus I fell down before the LORD forty days and forty nights, as I fell down at the first; because the LORD had said he would destroy you.

**James 5:16** (Parallel theme): Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**Ezekiel 22:30** (Parallel theme): And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

**Psalms 105:6** (Parallel theme): O ye seed of Abraham his servant, ye children of Jacob his chosen.

**Exodus 32:32** (Parallel theme): Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

**Matthew 12:18** (Judgment): Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

**Ezekiel 13:5** (Parallel theme): Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.

**Ezekiel 20:8** (Parallel theme): But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt: then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

**Numbers 16:5** (Parallel theme): And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.