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So it isn't that the Lord was simply going to destroy all this nation because of the attitude they took and then Moses persuades Him not to, but that the Lord expresses an idea, an attitude which might easily naturally have been in Moses' mind and give Moses an opportunity to show what metal he is made of in the situation. So the Lord says, Separate yourselves from among this congregation that I may consume them in a moment. But vs. 22 says (reading text). In other words Moses' attitude was very definitely one of interceding for the people. ~~Moses~~ ~~And~~ And we have seen that on various previous occasions. Moses was looking for their welfare. He was interceding for them. He was ^{like} ~~like~~ those of whom we ~~read~~ read in the NT who prayed, Lord let not this thing be laid to their charge. He was taking a position for the advance of God's work and for the welfare of His people even in the face of these terrible attacks against him.

And then we find Moses' attitude brought out in vs. 29-30, where in vs. 28/28

Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the Lord hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind (reading text of vs. 29-30). Moses here makes his claims to be the leader of God's people here dependant upon God's working a miracle. Moses' does not declare as his right that they have got to obey him, but he declares that God has in a miraculous way brought you out of Egypt. God has led in a miraculous way, and if God wants me to lead further He will continue in the same way to show that this is His will. Moses thus puts his claim to continued leadership very definitely on a special appointment of the Lord proven by miracles God has done in the past and is going to do in the future and declares that he personally has not forfeited this by any unjust acts. When anyone claims to be in Moses place we can test his claim. That's a wonderful thing of course about our Protestant belief which we find clearly taught in the NT, that everyone has direct access to God. And we must have human leadership for accomplishment, and we must move forward in cooperation and we must support those ~~to~~ to whom God gives special gifts. But we must examine their actions and their lives and see whether they meet the tests ~~that~~ that Moses here put before them. So here is Moses' attitude. The work must go forward. God's will must be done. Moses' claim is based upon God's supernatural designation of him for ~~this~~ the situation and his calling God to witness that he has not proved himself