

# GRACE GAZETTE

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*Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees. And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

*Hebrews 12:12-13*

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## OUR INTERCESSOR

*But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

*Hebrews 7:24-25*

Abraham sat in the door of his tent on the plains of Mamre one day, when the LORD appeared to HIM as THREE MEN. Abraham bowed down before HIM calling HIM, ADONAI (i.e.; Sovereign LORD). It is interesting that HE addressed them as ONE. CHRIST is indeed the FULLNESS of the GODHEAD bodily, and is the REVELATION of GOD to men. The LORD came to tell him that HIS promise to make him the father of many nations (see Gen.17:4), would soon be fulfilled as his wife Sarah would soon bear the promised child, Isaac. Sarah, being ninety years old, upon overhearing this conversation, laughed to herself as she considered the preposterous nature of this declaration.

But the LORD came to bring him other news as well, which was not as welcome as the other. HE told him that HE was going to visit Sodom and Gomorrah with HIS judgement, which Abraham understood to mean that HE would destroy these cities. Since his nephew, Lot, dwelt in Sodom, he was quite concerned for his safety. Thus, we see the first instance of "intercession" which is recorded for us in the scriptures. *"And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD."* (Gen 18:22) In essence he put himself in between the LORD and Sodom, and made a plea for that city, on the behalf of Lot, who had no idea that such a judgement was about to befall his place of abode. Abraham was persistent and insistent in his plea and the LORD's hand was stayed until HE said HE would not destroy it if HE found ten righteous men in that city. There were not ten and so HIS destruction was surely visited upon it, though HE did spare Lot, for whom Abraham was actually concerned.

In this activity we see a picture of JESUS CHRIST as the ADVOCATE and PROTECTOR of HIS people. HE came into the world for this purpose, and HE has accomplished exactly what HE set out to do. *"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."* (Heb 9:11-12)

The English word "intercession" appears five times in the KJV Bible. It simply means to "entreat for or confer with". It is most often associated with prayer but is not limited to such. The Greek word for "intercession" is also translated as "have dealt with" in Acts 25:4. Here, Festus is speaking to King Agrippa concerning the uproar and focus of the Jews to get him to bring judgement upon Paul. He describes their insistence to see this matter taken care of. There is also another Greek word which is translated as "intercession" found in Romans 8:26 which is similar in definition, meaning "to intercede in the behalf of." Thus, we can see that "intercession" is a description of the activity of being an advocate who stands in the place of another to plead their case. It is clearly demonstrated each time that a defendant in a criminal case is tried in court and a lawyer represents his client to argue on his or her behalf. Even when the defendant is clearly guilty, this "intercession" takes place.

JESUS CHRIST is the greatest INTERCESSOR to have ever lived and the only ONE whose intercession has no failure nor lack of diligence to obtain the desired result, which HE has purposed

from the beginning. It is foretold in the message which the Angel brought to Joseph when he was contemplating putting Mary away privately. *“But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”* (Mat 1:20-23)

JESUS CHRIST **has** interceded for HIS people. HE came into the world as a SUBSTITUTE for HIS people, taking their sin upon HIMSELF, being *“acquainted with (their) grief”* as one who can be touched with their infirmities. HE knew no sin (i.e.; HE was not tainted with sin (seeing no corruption) in HIMSELF,) yet the scriptures tell us that HE “became sin” (see II Cor. 5:21) in order that HIS people might “become righteous” by HIS “interceding” work in their behalf. Just as they had the sin of their father, Adam, imputed to them, now CHRIST has imputed their sin to HIMSELF and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS to them. This work of REDEMPTION is done for them quite apart from any activity on their part. They could not deliver themselves, but HE accomplished it for them.

We see HIS intercession for them, manifested in HIS prayer for HIS elect in the Garden of Gethsemane. *“I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.”* (John 17:9-10) This intercessory prayer is recorded for us, yet we know that it was HIS habit to arise a great while before day, in order to turn aside unto prayer. No doubt HE was worshipping HIS FATHER in these prayers, yet one must consider that HIS desire to deliver HIS people was also upon HIS heart.

JESUS CHRIST **presently** intercedes for HIS people. HE does this primarily through the operation of HIS SPIRIT in them just like HE promised, *“When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.”* (John 16:13-15) We see this demonstrated as HE prompts HIS people to pray. *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself (or HIMSELF) maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”* (Rom 8:26-27)

JESUS CHRIST is **constantly** interceding for HIS people. Many are those who picture this “intercession” as HIM down on HIS knees in heaven “praying” for HIS people with spoken words. Yet this is not, at all, an accurate depiction. HIS “prayers” in words, have come to an end when HE ascended back to the RIGHT HAND of the FATHER. HIS intercession for HIS people now takes place by HIS presence there as their REDEEMER KING who has triumphed over death in their behalf. HE is their JUSTIFIER by reason of HIS decree and the shedding of HIS blood to take away their sin by satisfying the demands of the Law. Charles Wesley rightly depicted the nature of HIS “intercession” when he wrote the hymn that says, “Arise, my soul, arise, shake off thy guilty fears. The bleeding Sacrifice in my behalf appears. Before the throne my Surety stands, before the throne my Surety stands; my name is written on His hands. He ever lives above, for me to intercede; His all-redeeming love, His precious blood to plead, His blood atoned for every race, His blood atoned for every race, and sprinkles now the throne of grace. Five bleeding wounds He bears, received on Calvary; they pour effectual prayers, they strongly plead for me. “Forgive him, O, forgive,” they cry, “Forgive him, O, forgive,” they cry, “Nor let that ransomed sinner die!”” (c.1742)

JESUS CHRIST **effectively** intercedes for HIS people. *“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.”* (John 6:37-40) *“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”* (Rom 8:31) Is CHRIST your INTERCESSOR?

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