

## True Intercession

(Deut. 9:16-21, 24-29; Daniel 9; Job 42)

What is true intercession? What compels the believer to intercede for others? Is it not because the Bible tells us so; is it not also for compassion and love for those we love? In what measure of self-sacrifice do we take the task seriously? When I read the devotion and compassion of Moses for the spiritual life of his people, I conclude that we are far from being intercessors we should be. When God called Moses attention to the sin of idolatry Israel was committing against Him, while Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights with God receiving the tablets of commandments, his zeal for God's righteousness turned against Israel and their idolatrous practice, for they had corrupted themselves by making for themselves a molten calf, which was an Egyptian god and called it their god. Grieve and despair filled his heart and he threw the commandments tablets on the ground, and broke them. Afraid of God's anger and hot displeasure toward Israel, Moses set his heart to intercede for his people, including his brother, Aaron, for the Lord wanted to destroy him also. He then fell down before the Lord for forty days and forty nights, without eating or drinking to intercede for his people. Moses also took the calf they had made, burned it and crushed it grinding it very small, until it was as fine as dust; and cast it into the brook (Deut. 9:18-21). Because he knew God better than anyone else, he was aware of the serious consequences Israel was about to suffer. His relationship with God was so deep that when his brother and sister talked against him, God came down in a pillar of cloud, and stood at the Tent door and called them and He said, Hear now My words; If there is a prophet among you, I the Lord make Myself known to him in a vision and speak to him in a dream. But not so with My servant Moses; he is entrusted and faithful in all My house; with him I speak mouth to mouth clearly and not in dark speeches; and he beholds the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses? And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and He departed (Numbers 12:3-8).

In spite of his short temper sometimes, he had a humble heart toward God and man; Knowing God for these many years, as he talked with him face to face, he stood in the gap for Israel to intercede for her, for he knew that God's displeasure was upon his people. God had said to him, I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people; now therefore let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and that I may destroy them; but I will make of you a great nation (Exodus 32:9-10). Moses, however besought the Lord His God and said, Lord, why does Your wrath blaze hot against Your people, whom You have brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand (Vs. 11)? He also said, if You will forgive their sin- and if not, blot me, I pray you out of Your book which You have written (Exodus 32:32)! He was even willing to lose his life for the sake of his people! He took the liberty to remind the Lord of the promise He had made to His servants, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and asked Him not to look

at the stubbornness of the people. He stood boldly before His God compelled by the responsibility of his priesthood when God told him that He was not going with them, but that He was going to send an angel before them (Exodus 33:1). So Moses pleaded with God to go with them; then God said to him, I will do this thing also that you have asked for you have found favor, loving-kindness and mercy in My sight and **I know you personally and by name** (Exodus 33:17).

Moses' life in the desert was a life of intimacy with God. He gained favor with God not while in the palace, where he had everything and lived comfortable; where he was considered a prince, son of a princess. It was when he stepped out of that pagan world and fled to the desert for fear of the King, for he had killed an Egyptian to protect his own people. His heart was in the right direction, even though he had done a bad thing. The desert of life is a wonderful thing to correct our mistakes and straighten our path toward God. Being in the desert for many years, his heart grew softer toward people and that led him to become a great intercessor. To be a good intercessor one must have love for people, a humble heart before God and man. An intercessor must apply faith to his prayer in righteousness and a humbleness of soul. James said, The prayer of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will restore him; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. The earnest prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available (James 5:15,16b).

The act of intercession is for all believers. When we gather together to intercede, God's power in us gives boldness to enter the Holy of Holies with confidence in behalf of those we are bringing to His attention, for we do have such a High Priest, One Who is seated at the right hand of the majestic [God] in heaven (Heb. 8:1). He opened the way for us to have access to the throne of grace at His death on the cross, when He had cried again with a loud voice and had given up His spirit; at once the curtain of the sanctuary of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom (Matt. 27:50-51a). Just before His trial and crucifixion, He interceded for us (John 17). When Satan asked Him to sift Peter as one sifts wheat, He interceded for Peter (Luke 22:32-33). Our brothers and sisters in Christ concerns should be our concerns; not with two to five minutes prayer, but with cries and groans for their pains, as long as the Holy Spirit leads to.

Daniel had a heart that pleased God's heart. He was called by the angel Gabriel, who had come with the message for him, "Great Beloved". At that time Daniel sought the face of the Lord God with fasting and sackcloth and ashes; he prayed with confession of his sin, his forefathers' sin and the sin of his nation. While he was speaking and praying, confessing his sin and the sin of the people Israel, presenting his supplication before the Lord his God for the holy hill of his God, the angel Gabriel came with the answer and prophecy concerning the future of his people (Daniel 9). When we enter the presence of our Lord to intercede with a heart that is contrite,

acknowledging our sins with repentance before God, He will never turn His face the other way, for He is with those with a contrite heart.

There are so many needs among the bride of Christ that need to be taken to Him; God is looking for true intercessors who will stand in the gap in these days when discouragement and disease have taken many aside; when many are lonely and hopeless. The Lord said this to Ezekiel, And I sought a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it, but I found none (Ezekiel 22:30). Could this be the situation today, as we busy ourselves with electronic gadgets and give a deaf ear to the needs of God's people? As we walk with head down completely absorbed by these things? Could it be so? We must know that times of trials will come to all at one time or another. Remember this now and consider the sick, the hungry, the depressed, and the hopeless. For who knows how long will you enjoy your health? The Word of God says, Blessed is he who considers the weak and the poor; the Lord will deliver him in the time of evil and trouble; the Lord will protect him and keep him alive; he shall be called blessed in the land; the Lord will sustain, refresh, and strengthen him on his bed of languishing; all his bed You [O Lord] will turn, change and transform in his illness (Psalm 41: 1-3). Intercession is an unselfish act that connects us to the throne of grace and links us to God.