

THE INTERCESSION OF CHRIST

A Study on Hebrews 7: 25

Hebrews 7: 25 - Its Context
His Intercession
The Benefits of His Intercession
Those for Whom He Intercedes
The Efficacy of His Intercession

Hebrews 7: 25

The text for this message is *Hebrews chapter 7 verse 25*

'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.'

Hebrews 7: 25

- The Context of Hebrews 7: 25

- The Greatness of Yeshua

- Greater than Abraham - the father of faith
- Greater than Moses (*Hebrews 3: 1-6*) and Joshua (*Hebrews 4: 8*)
- Greater than Melchizedek - to whom Abraham gave one-tenth

*'to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "**king of righteousness,**" and then also **king of Salem,** meaning "**king of peace,**" **without father, without mother, without genealogy,** having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, **remains a priest continually.'***

Hebrews 7: 2-3

- The Superiority of Yeshua's Priesthood

- Not by Law but by the power of an Endless Life
 - The Law made nothing perfect
- A Priest Forever

*'For He testifies: "You are **a priest forever** according to the order of Melchizedek."*

Hebrews 7: 17 (quoting Psalm 110: 4)

- Levitical priests died - Yeshua (of the tribe of Judah) lives forever

- A Priest by virtue of an Oath

*'(for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "**The Lord has sworn and will not relent,** 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek'"),'* **Hebrews 7: 21**

- Levitical priests had no oath - they served under the weakness of the law which could not save
- Yeshua is the perfect priest of a new and better covenant by which men can be saved

*'For the law **appoints as high priests men who have weakness,** but the **word of the oath,** which came after the law, **appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.'***

Hebrews 7: 28

- An Unchangeable Priesthood - because He continues forever, He has an unchangeable priesthood - He remains a priest continually

'But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.'

Hebrews 7: 24

- And Hence... *'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them'*
(Hebrews 7: 25)

His Intercession

- The Intercession of Christ is made to His Father on behalf of Man, for man's good

- Intercession is Prayer, but not all Prayer is Intercession
- Intercession is made by one on behalf of another; as such it is the deepest form of prayer
- Yeshua is 'Standing in the Gap' for those incapable of standing themselves

*'So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and **stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land**, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.'*

Ezekiel 22: 30

- Intercession often means Identification - it is costly; Yeshua is identified with us, in His humanity, and now it is us for whom He is interceding
*'For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both **He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one**, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You."*

Hebrews 2: 10-12

- Examples

- Abraham for Sodom (*Genesis 18: 16-33*)
- Daniel for His People the Jews (*Daniel 9: 1-19*)

- Yeshua's intercession for us is supremely effective for our salvation
 - He has a more excellent ministry
 - Through a better covenant

- A New Covenant based on better things...on promise, not law

*'But now He has obtained **a more excellent ministry**, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of **a better covenant**, which was established on **better promises**.'*

Hebrews 8: 6

- What Yeshua Asks For

- We get a glimpse of what Yeshua's intercession is now from His intercession in the Garden of Gethsemane (*John 17*)
- To Bring All the Elect Home

- He prays for all who will believe - that the Father will keep them

*'Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, **keep through Your name those whom You have given Me**, that they may be one as We are.'*

John 17: 11

- Keep (Greek: tēreō) meaning watch over, guard from loss or injury

- He prays for the unity of the elect in their faith

*"I do not pray for these alone, but also for **those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; **that they also may be one in Us**, that the world may believe that You sent Me."*

John 17: 20-21

- Faith is a Gift - our own coming to faith is through the Father's grace and Yeshua's intercession

'For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.'

Ephesians 2: 8-9

▪ To Cleanse and Keep Disciples

- He prays we will be kept from the evil one - and be overcomers

*'I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but **that You should keep them from the evil one**. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.'*

John 17: 15

- His intercession is effective because of His victory (over sin, the world and Satan) and because of His pardoning grace (through which we have life)

*'For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And **this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith**.'*

1 John 5: 4

▪ To Increase Grace and Holiness in Disciples

- He prays that the grace we received at conversion will be maintained and increased - for us to know His joy

*'While I was with them in the world, **I kept them in Your name**. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, **that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves**.'*

John 17: 12-13

- His intercession is not simply for the preservation of our faith but that we would grow in faith, grace and holiness

*'**Sanctify them by Your truth**. Your word is truth.'*

John 17: 17

- Not only have we His word, we have the Holy Spirit in us - our 'deposit of guarantee'

*'Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and **given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee**.'*

2 Corinthians 1: 21-22

▪ To Preserve Disciples 'Safe Unto Glory'

- He prays that those the Father has given to Him will be preserved to be with Him in the heavenly kingdom

- To be with Him forever - His bride

- To see His glory

*"Father, **I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am**, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world."*

John 17: 24

- The Golden Chain of Redemption (in Romans 8: 29-30) - is ours...we can have complete assurance because of Yeshua's intercession

*'For **whom He foreknew, He also predestined** to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, **these He also called**; whom He called, **these He also justified**; and whom He justified, **these He also glorified.**'*

Romans 8: 29-30

- The Intercession of our Great High Priest, who lives forever will certainly be effective - to ensure our salvation and bring us to glory

- **What Yeshua's Intercession Infers**

- **Saints Sin**

- Three Tenses of Salvation - spoken of in scripture
 - We have been saved - we are justified once and for all (*Eph. 2: 8-9; 1 Cor. 6: 11; Titus 3: 4-7*)
 - We are being saved - we are in the process of sanctification by the Holy Spirit and God's word (*1 Cor. 1: 18; 2 Cor. 2: 15; 2 Peter 12: 10; Phil. 2: 12-13*)
 - We will be saved - we will be kept by the Father and the Son until the fulfilment of salvation when we reach the heavenly kingdom (*Rom. 5: 9; Eph. 1: 13-14*)
 - Our sin, once we born again and are justified, will not prevent us from reaching our destiny to be with the Lord forever - we have an Advocate

*'My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, **we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**'*

1 John 2: 1

- Yeshua has made full atonement for our iniquity
 - Firstly, by paying the price for our sin
 - Secondly, by insisting upon the price paid for our offences , by way of His intercession

- **We Need a Mediator**

- Our God is a Consuming Fire (*Hebrews 12: 28-29*) - we dare not approach Him ourselves, in our uncleanness
 - The Israelites realised this at Sinai

*'Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "**You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.**"'*

Exodus 20: 18-19

- In our weaknesses and uncleanness - Yeshua, our Great High Priest who lives forever, is the Perfect Mediator for us
 - We need an Intercessor such as Him

- **We Need a Blameless Intercessor**

- Those who intercede for another - with a holy and just God - need to be clean themselves

- The Levitical High Priest dare not enter the Holy of Holies without first offering a sacrifice for his own sin
- Yeshua's sinless perfection makes Him the supreme intercessor
- He is supremely 'fit for purpose'

*'For **such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.'***

Hebrews 7: 26-27

- **Yeshua Answers All Accusations Against Us**

- He has, in Himself, the answer to every demand of a just and holy God
- He has gifts and sacrifices to offer on our behalf

*'For every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. Therefore it is necessary that **this One also have something to offer.'***

Hebrews 8: 3

- Gifts & Sacrifice - Yeshua gave Himself, His life He offered as a Sacrifice for our sin
- These gifts are so satisfactory to God, so all sufficient, that they always will prevail for the continual remission of sin

- **Believers should not Remain at the Cross**

- Yes we are justified - once and for all - and we should not forget that
 - It is right to remember the Cross - but we are not to remain there
- We are told to Press On...to our heavenly destination

*'I press toward **the goal for the prize of the upward call of God** in Christ Jesus.'*

Philippians 3: 14

- We are citizens, now, of the heavenly kingdom where Yeshua has gone before us...we are not of this world anymore!
 - We should Press On and Ascend Up to His heavenly throne and kingdom; we should Enter, with boldness into the Holiest

*'Therefore, brethren, having boldness to **enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,***

Hebrews 10: 19

- There to obtain mercy & grace (*Heb. 4: 16*) & behold His glory (*Rev. 4*)

The Benefits of Yeshua's Intercession

What are the benefits of Yeshua's intercession for us?

*'Therefore He is also **able to save to the uttermost** those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.'*

Hebrews 7: 25

Answer - Yeshua's Ability to Save to the Uttermost

- **His Ability**
 - **Yeshua is Willing & Able to Save**

- He is Willing to Save - the Father loved us and sent His Son, Yeshua, who in obedience and humility died to atone for our sin

*'In **this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.'*** **1 John 4: 9-10**

- The Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep (John 10: 11)
- But...in Hebrews 7: 25...it is His Ability to Save which Stressed
 - Yeshua's willingness to save would be worth nothing without His power and ability to save (1 Cor. 1: 18; Col. 2: 13-15)
- His Ability is through His All-Sufficient Merit
 - Founded on His worthiness as Saviour, Redeemer and Intercessor

*'But this Man, after He had **offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.'*** **Hebrews 10: 12-14**

- Levitical priests and their sacrifices could not save - there was insufficiency in their worthiness and insufficient merit in their sacrifices
- Yeshua is all-worthy in His person - and His sacrifice and offering are fully acceptable to God and all-sufficient for us
- His Ability is through His Infinite Power
 - Yeshua has Power to Save all that the Father gives to Him

*'All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and **the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.'*** **John 6: 37**

*'Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as **You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.** And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.'*

John 17: 1-3

- There is sufficiency in the power of Yeshua's death and resurrection to save a thousand times as many as are destined to come to Him

*'Now **to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.'***

Ephesians 3: 20-21

- **Salvation**

We see from this verse that salvation has two clear aspects

- **Salvation by way of Justification**

- This 'saving' comes to us by what Yeshua did for us in this world

*'There is **therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the***

law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that **the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled** in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.' **Romans 8: 1-4**

- We are Delivered from the guilt and power of sin by His death
- We are Saved - Justified...Declared Not Guilty...through Yeshua's shed blood which makes atonement for our sin (*Leviticus 17: 11*)
- Yeshua's blood removes the curse of the law (*Galatians 3: 13-14*) and we are set free by His victory over sin and death (*1 Cor. 15: 55-57*)
- Salvation by Justification is by Grace [God's Riches At Christ's Expense] through Faith, itself a gift of God (*Ephesians 2: 8-9*)
- We are reconciled to God, no longer enemies (*Colossians 1: 19-22*)
- There is no going back on such salvation - once saved always saved (*Romans 8: 31-39*)

■ **Salvation by way of Preservation**

- This 'saving' comes to us by what Yeshua does for us through His eternal life - by His continual intercession for us

*'Much more then, **having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, **having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**'* **Romans 5: 9-10**

- Having been Saved (Justified) by Yeshua's Death - we are Saved (Preserved) by Yeshua's Life
- He gave Himself as a ransom for us, and now (today) He improves that gift in the presence of God by way of intercession
- We are Preserved in our Salvation through Yeshua's continual intercession for us
- Since Yeshua ever lives to intercede for us - how could it be that we should lose our salvation? Once saved always saved - preserved through His intercession for us (*Romans 8: 31-39*)

■ **Justification & Preservation in *Romans 8: 31-39* - I have referred to these verses in both these aspects of salvation**

*'What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? **Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?** It is God who justifies. **Who is he who condemns?** It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."

*Yet in all these things we **are more than conquerors** through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any*

other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.'

Romans 8: 31-39

- **Notice the two-fold aspect of Salvation**
 - **Justification** - God is for us, He gave His Son for us, He Justifies - hence: no charges can be brought against us, and the Father & Yeshua will freely give us all things
 - **Preservation** - Yeshua is at the right hand of the Father interceding for us, nothing shall separate us from Christ's love - hence: we are more than conquerors, and we shall see Father & Son face to face because nothing can prevent our eternal destiny being fulfilled
 - It is because Yeshua ever lives - that He now stands before the Father's throne and acts as our Mediator and Intercessor

- **Saved from God's Wrath - through Yeshua's Death and Intercession**
 - Saved from God's wrath on sin and ungodliness - by grace through faith
 - We need have no fear of the fires of hell - there is no condemnation
 - God's love and mercy to us are unceasing - nothing shall separate us

*'For **the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men**, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*

Romans 1: 18-19

*"**He who believes in the Son has everlasting life**; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."*

John 3: 36

- The Lord reserves the right to chastise us - if we offend then the Father chastises us as His sons and daughters
 - This chastisement is not 'legal' but loving - not to destroy us but rather that we partake of His holiness

'But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.'

1 Corinthians 11: 32

- **Saved from the Effects of Sin - through Yeshua's Death and Intercession**
 - Though we may still commit sin - the damning effect of sin is taken away
 - Firstly, through Yeshua's shed blood we have imputed righteousness - we are justified
 - Secondly, through Yeshua's intercession we have His pleading before the Father of the continuing merits of His blood sprinkled on the heavenly mercy seat for our sin - we are preserved
 - Hence, we join our prayers with Yeshua's intercession for us, when we pray 'Our Father...forgive us our trespasses'
 - We now have a choice - because sin has no dominion over us

*'For **the wages of sin is death**, but **the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**.'*

Romans 6: 23

- **To The Uttermost**
Uttermost - signifies to the very limits, to the end, to the last, to the furthest part and to the greatest extent
 - **Those Far From Christ**
 - Distance is No Object
 - There is no prodigal that Yeshua cannot save - the Father calls the prodigals home with great compassion (*Luke 15: 11-32*)
 - Depth is No Barrier
 - There is no depth of sin so great that Yeshua cannot save - Yeshua came not to the 'righteous' but to the sinner; to the tax collectors, the publicans and the harlots (*Luke 5: 27-32*)
 - Defection is Not Terminal
 - The Backslider can always be restored - Yeshua's intercession is powerful to lift up again those who fall and restore them
 - Israel's story is testament to this - even now the Lord loves them and has His purposes for them (*Hosea 14: 4*)
 - **Against All Impediments - many things which make coming to God by Christ hard...but all can be overcome because He is able to save to the uttermost**
 - **Extraordinary Corruption**
 - No unsaved man is master of himself - all are ruled by the lusts and passions of the flesh...slaves to sin
 - But Yeshua sets us free - free from the power of the flesh, no longer slaves to sin - His Spirit in us must rule our soul and our flesh

*'But God be thanked that though **you were slaves of sin**, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And **having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.**'*

Romans 6: 17-18

- Even Paul wrestled with his flesh - he called himself the chief of sinners (*1 Timothy 1: 15*)
- There's a Battle going on...it is the Battle of Sanctification

*'For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see **another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind**, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.'*

Romans 7: 22-25

- ❖ Paul is not saying the saved mind is holy and the body unholy - but is expressing the battle between the rule of God's Spirit in him and the lusts and desires of the flesh
- **Satanic Attack**
 - One who seeks to come to God through Christ will find it suddenly appears that there is a Satanic enemy who will stop at nothing to prevent them
 - But Yeshua has defeated the Devil and his demonic hosts - they are disarmed - so salvation is available to all

'Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.'

Colossians 2: 15

- We have the armour of God (*Ephesians 6: 10-18*) and it is the Lord's strength and by His might we can stand, withstand and stand
- Yeshua's intercession for us in the spiritual battle will save to the uttermost - Peter is our example

*'And the Lord said, "**Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.**"*

Luke 22: 31-32

○ **Human Reason**

- The philosophies and reasoning of this world are in opposition to God's truth

'Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.'

Colossians 2: 8

- Our natural human sense and reason often wars against God's truth and gets in the way of our coming to God through Christ
- Scripture tells us to focus on things that are true, noble, just and pure - on things of God not on things of man

*'Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, **if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.**'*

Philippians 4: 8

○ **The Burden of Guilt**

- The Lord gave us a conscience so that we might be aware of sin - it is in our conscience that the Holy Spirit convicts of sin - but the enemy does not convict, he only condemns
- Satan can make it seem that we have sinned so greatly and so often that it is impossible we can be forgiven
- He even tries to persuade us we have committed unpardonable sin
- Yeshua, by His death, took our punishment
- Yeshua, by His continuing intercession for us, saves us from a guilty conscience - continually assuring us of forgiveness and reconciliation to God
- The record has been wiped clean - and Yeshua wants us to know this - we are meant to live free from guilt - forgiveness includes a cleansed conscience

*'How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, **cleans your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**'*

Hebrews 9: 14

○ **Persecution**

- Disciples are warned by Yeshua that in the world they will experience tribulation - the Greek (*thilipsis*) means pressure, affliction, anguish, persecution or trouble

- All disciples experience this - but sometimes it seems so great as to crush and break our desire to come to God through Christ
- Yet Yeshua assures us He has overcome the world - and so that we might know and experience His victory ourselves, He is continual in His intercession for us

*'These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; **but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**'*

John 16: 33

- **There is Glory to Yeshua in Saving to the Uttermost**

- Yeshua's ability to save to the uttermost - both those far from Him, and those battling impediments - brings Him great glory

*'And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and **I am glorified in them.**'*

John 17: 11

- His saving to the uttermost is not related to the extent of His ability, but to the greatness of our need
- Yeshua's glory is revealed in His saving grace and goodness towards us
- Though our condition be extreme and our need great, the intercession of Yeshua will guard and preserve our salvation and bring us through to glory - and we will know the goodness of the Lord - in the land of the living...so don't lose heart

*'I would have lost heart, **unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.**'*

Psalm 27: 13

- Yeshua's goodness to us in His intercession, for our preserving salvation, means His glory is revealed in us...and He is glorified by the completeness of our salvation

- **Inferences - What Do These Benefits Infer?**

- **Justification will stand with Imperfection**

- Those who are saved by Yeshua's shed blood (that is, salvation by justification) still have need of Yeshua's intercession for the preservation of their salvation unto glory
- The justified are still sinners - there is a process of sanctification we need to make us a pure spotless bride - but tells us that Justification will stand with Imperfection
- This does not mean justification will allow or condone imperfection - we are called to be holy - but there is no necessity of perfection for our justification to be complete and all-sufficient
- There is much more that could be said of this, e.g.:
 - The Justified are Imperfect in Graces (Fruits of the Spirit)
 - The Justified are Imperfect in Duties (Service and Devotion)

- **Satan does not Give Up**

- As soon as we become Yeshua's disciples we become Satan's enemy - previously we were his subjects
- Justification does not secure us from Satan's assault - if anything it is the reverse - he is the accuser of the brethren and he is the great deceiver

- Yeshua gives us the Armour of God so that we might be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (not our own)

- **The Danger of Self-Sufficiency**

- We cannot be Yeshua's disciples in our own strength - were that so, there would be no need of Yeshua's continual intercession for us
- If we seek to always look to Yeshua; doing nothing but in His name, by His word, and in His power; we may be sure of the aid that His intercession will bring us

- **God Hates the Sin of His People**

- God Hates Sin - it is rebellion against His divine law and his person
- The Lord's special people, such as Israel and His body (the ecclesia), are chosen to reveal His glory

*'But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, **that you may proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;'* **1 Peter 2: 9**

- The Old Testament and the New Testament are full of examples of God's discipline of His people to correct iniquities and disobedience - they are an offence to Him
- Were it not for Yeshua's continual intercession for us, how great might God's anger and judgement be upon us in the severity of His hatred of sin
- Therefore we must make Holiness our aim

- **Yeshua Begins and Completes our Salvation**

- Yeshua by His continual intercession for us will preserve us in our salvation and bring us to glory - He will complete what He began
- Yeshua is the Author and Finisher of our Faith - through His shed blood we are justified and reconciled with God, through His intercession He will bring to completion what He has begun in us

*'Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith**, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'* **Hebrews 12: 1-2**

- Many disciples Begin with Grace and End with Works
 - We know that faith without works is dead (James 2: 14-26) - they are the evidence of the Holy Spirit within
 - But...to be saved and brought to glory, to be carried through this dangerous world - from our first coming to Christ until we set foot in the gates of Paradise - this is the work of Yeshua, our mediator, our great High Priest and our Intercessor
 - When we reach the heavenly kingdom and see His face we will cry Grace! Grace! Grace! - All Glory to the Name of Yeshua

- **Saints Need Yeshua to the End**

- We stand in our faith with Yeshua's help

- Our faith began through justification by Yeshua's blood
- We stand today by His grace and His continual intercession for us; for He ever lives to make intercession for us
- His ongoing intercession and work in us is evident
 - He has put His Spirit within us - to be our teacher and guide
 - He is at work in sanctifying us by His truth (His word)
 - He gives us His great and precious promises
 - He gives us the sweetness of His love and the light of His countenance
 - He will preserve us in faith and bring us to glory - for He ever lives to make intercession for us - we can live in hope and assurance

Those For Whom He Intercedes

Who are those for whom Yeshua makes Intercession?

*'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost **those who come to God through Him**, since He always lives to make intercession for them.'*

Hebrews 7: 25

Answer - Those who Come to God through Him (Yeshua)

- Not Those who Come Their Own Way
 - To God, but not to Christ
 - Those who seek to come to God by any means other than by Yeshua will not find living faith or new birth - nor will they receive the benefits of Yeshua's intercession

*'Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**"* **John 14: 6**

- The Jews are such people - seeking to come to God, but rejecting God's Son Yeshua - the way, the only way, that God has given for salvation

*"This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for **there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"*

Acts 4: 11-12

- To the Jews, Yeshua is a stumbling stone (*Romans 9: 30-33*)
- Praise God that His intention and will is that there will be a day when He will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Him whom they pierced (*Zechariah 12: 10*)
- As we read in Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37, physical restoration will be followed by spiritual restoration - and we are privileged to see the beginnings of this in our day
- Ardent followers of False Religions and False Gods, such as Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and even the Intellectual Christianity of Higher Criticism are such as seek God but not through Christ
 - In some cases these ardent seekers are deceived by the Devil into false religion

- In other cases they are deceived by the depraved thinking of their own minds (*Romans 1: 20-23*)

- **To Christ, but not to God by Him**

- Many are attracted to Yeshua but do not come to God by Him
 - Attracted to Yeshua by the need for pardon
 - Attracted to Yeshua by the desire for 'salvation'
 - Not attracted to come to the Holy God who is a Consuming Fire
 - Not attracted to come to God in Reverence and Fear
 - Not attracted to come to God to Serve Him
 - Not attracted to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Such coming to Christ for a benefit and stopping there, and not coming to the Living God by Him, avails nothing
 - Such persons seek removal of guilt and the fear of damnation, but no more
 - Righteousness is imputed to us if we believe in Him that raised Jesus from the dead
 - Justification is through Yeshua's shed blood; but Forgiveness is with the Father, as is the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Imputing of the Righteousness of Christ to Us

- Unwillingness to Change

- Those who come to Christ, but not to God by Him often are those that wish to continue in their carnality and sin - indeed they often plead an indulgence for sin
- They seek to be washed only to go back into the mire

*'Do you not know that **the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?** Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.'*

1 Corinthians 6: 9-19

- They seek pardon for sin without a desire to show the fruits of the Spirit
- In our days the movement to 'inclusiveness' - the acceptance of practicing homosexuals and transgender identifiers; without the submission to God's word or to the call to holiness; is a manifestation of those who seek to come to Christ but not to God by Him

- Those who Pick and Choose Doctrines

- Loving the Doctrine of Grace but not that of Holiness
- Loving the Manifestations of the Spirit but not Desiring to Know the Word of God

- **Those who Come as God Intends**

- The Lord has to awaken something in us to desire Him and see His goodness, before we are willing to come to him

- Yeshua tells us this learning is of the Father - and principally it is the teaching that we must come to Him by His Son

'No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.'

John 6: 44-45

There are three sorts of people that come to God by Christ:

■ **The Newly Awakened**

- Awakened to Sinfulness - how wretched and miserable a sinner one is (*Isaiah 64: 6*)
- Awakened to the Emptiness of the World - the world is a great snare to man's soul (*Luke 12: 16-21*)
 - The Busyness and Clamour of the world
 - The Friendship of the world
 - The Terrors of the world
 - The Glory of the world
- Awakened to the Severity of the Law - the law cannot save from judgement; rather, by it we know what sin is and the penalty of it and are condemned by it (*Romans 3: 19-20*)
- Awakened to the Reality of Hell - aware of God's righteous judgement and the torment and everlasting nature of hell (*Revelation 20: 15*)
- Awakened to What Death Is - the uncertainty of its approach, the certainty of its coming, its finality (*Hebrews 9: 27*)
- Awakened to Who Christ Is - He is the Saviour and Redeemer, the one who reconciles God and Man, who justifies by grace and is willing and able to save all who come to Him (*Hebrews 12: 24; John 6: 37*)
- Awakened to Know God - He is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, in Him is glory, life, mercy and love (*Hebrews 11: 6; 1 John 4: 7-10*)
- Awakened to Coming Judgement - God has appointed a day of judgement on the disobedient, but has made provision through His Son to escape the wrath to come (*Ephesians 5: 3-6; Romans 5: 9*)
- The Newly Awakened, come to God through Yeshua - saved by His death (justified) - and will come to experience Yeshua's intercession for them (His preserving power)

■ **The Returning Backslider**

- Comes, as the newly awakened sinner does, with the same motives and knowledge
- Comes with the guilt of his backsliding and aware he has dishonoured God and grieved the saints - such things make their returning of greater difficulty than their first coming to God through Christ
- Their returning gives testimony to the Preserving Power of Yeshua's continual Intercession for disciples - of His ability to save to the uttermost

- **The Upright Believer**

- Their coming to God by Christ is distinguished from that of the other two
 - They come as sons and daughters, as those of the household of God
 - They come to God by Christ with that access of beloved sons and they come with boldness into His presence
 - They come to God by Christ constantly by prayer and meditation
 - They come to God by Christ earnestly, as did the Psalmists

*'As the deer pants for the water brooks, **so pants my soul for You, O God.** My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God?'*
Psalm 42: 1-2

*'How lovely is Your tabernacle, O Lord of hosts! **My soul longs, yes, even faints for the courts of the Lord;** my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.'*
Psalm 84: 1-2

- They come to God by Christ for a clearer discovery of themselves
 - They come to God by Christ for the weakening of the lusts and corruptions of the flesh
 - They come to God by Christ for the renewing and strengthening of their graces (Fruit of the Spirit)
 - They come to God by Christ for help against temptations
 - They come to God by Christ for the building up of their faith
 - They come to God by Christ for forgiveness of their daily sins
 - They come to God by Christ to seek the flourishing of His kingdom
 - They come to God by Christ for a hastening of the day of the gathering in of His elect
 - They come to God by Christ for a hastening of the great day of the coming of the Lord
- The upright believers are those that come to God to enjoy Him - and in the richness of their relationship to find joy today and the hope of glory tomorrow

- **Inferences regarding Those who Come to God by Christ**

- It is Wisdom to Come to God by Christ
 - The World Calls it Foolishness
 - But...it is Wisdom - to Hear God's Call; to Come to Christ, the Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1: 24); to escape God's wrath; to receive eternal life; etc...

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.'
1 Corinthians 1: 18

- Those who Come to God by Christ Believe there is a World to Come, and that World to Come is Better

- Such understanding is the fruit of faith - we walk by faith not by sight and it leads us on in the certainty our hope (2 Cor. 5: 1-7) - it is the strong quality that leads us to come to God by Christ
- The evidence for faith is the infallible word of God, which speaks of a better world to come

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

John 14: 1-3

- Most Men are Mad
 - Those that choose not to come to God through Christ show madness in refusing to be inheritors in the world to come - they have no faith, and no hope
 - The supposed wise men of the world scorn God's revealed truth - the worldly wise are spiritually fools - spurning salvation

'For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.'

Romans 1: 20-21

- The Lord Determines our End
 - The judgement God will make on men will be according to whether they come to God through Christ or not
 - There will be no repentance required in the joys of the heavenly kingdom, but Hell will be a place of untimely repentance and bitter regret
 - They that will not be saved by Christ will be judged and damned by Him

"Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

Acts 17: 30-31

The Efficacy of His Intercession

What is the reason for the unfailing efficacy of Yeshua's Intercession?
 What is it that makes Yeshua's intercession so completely effective and successful?

*'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since **He always lives to make intercession for them.**'*

Hebrews 7: 25

Answer - Yeshua is the Ever-Living High Priest of an Unshakeable Covenant

- **An Unchangeable Priesthood**

- The intercession of Yeshua, and its continuity and unending quality, is a sure token of the complete salvation of those who come to God by Him
 - The writer of Hebrews makes much of the continuity of Yeshua's priesthood, as we have already seen
 - He abides a priest continually (*Hebrews 7: 3*)
 - He has an unchangeable priesthood (*Hebrews 7: 24*)

'But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.'

Hebrews 7: 24

- He ever lives to make intercession for them (*Hebrews 7: 25*)
- The certainty of those who come to God through Christ reaping the benefits of His intercession is in this verse simply expressed '*since He always lives to make intercession for them*'

- **An Unshakeable Covenant**

- The Covenant of which Yeshua is High Priest will Stand
 - It is a covenant that will not be shaken or broken or made invalid by any weakness or the failings of those with whom God covenants
 - Hence His intercessions for us are supremely effective
 - This unshakeable covenant was spoken of in *Psalms 89*

'My mercy I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall stand firm with him. His seed also I will make to endure forever, and his throne as the days of heaven.

"If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments, if they break My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes.

Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, nor allow My faithfulness to fail. My covenant I will not break, nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips."

Psalms 89: 28-34

- The New Covenant is mentioned later, in *Hebrews 8: 8-12*, and it is quoting *Jeremiah 31: 31-34*
 - Yeshua acts as Priest and Fulfilment of this New Covenant - Yeshua has fulfilled all requirements of this new covenant
 - Hence though we may sin, because of Yeshua's perfect fulfilment of our part, the covenant is not broken
 - Yeshua is both the Priest and Sacrifice of the New Covenant - as we celebrate each week at our communion table (Eucharist)

*'And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; **this is My body.**" Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For **this is My blood of the new covenant,** which is shed for many for the remission of sins.'*

Matthew 26: 26-28

- Yeshua has obtained a more excellent ministry (compared to the Old Covenant priests) because He is the Mediator of this New Covenant

*'But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as **He is also Mediator of a better covenant,** which was established on better promises.'*

Hebrews 8: 6

- **Confirmed By An Oath**

- Yeshua's Priesthood is Confirmed by an Oath - the Lord has sworn and will not relent (change His mind/ will never revoke), You (Yeshua) are a priest forever

*'And inasmuch as **He was not made priest without an oath** (for they have become priests without an oath, but He with an oath by Him who said to Him: "The Lord has sworn and will not relent, **You are a priest forever** according to the order of Melchizedek' ”), **by so much more Jesus has become a surety of a better covenant.**'* **Hebrews 7: 20-22**

- The Oath confirms to Yeshua, and so to us also:
 - The Covenant of which Yeshua is High Priest
 - The Immutability of God's counsel and purposes - to save to the uttermost those that come to God by Christ
- It is a Guarantee of Acceptance - the Covenant of Yeshua's Priesthood is confirmed by Oath - therefore he that comes to God by Yeshua must and will be accepted by God
- God's Oath confirms the Excellency of Yeshua's Sacrifice - the Father is eternally satisfied in the goodness and merit of it

*'For **such a High Priest was fitting for us**, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.'*

Hebrews 7: 26-27

- The Oath declares that in the judgement of God, Yeshua's blood is able to save any sinner and His ever-living intercession able to preserve us unto glory

- **Grounded in the Life of Yeshua**

- **A Life Laid Down and Taken Up Again**

- Yeshua's life was laid down for our ransom
- Yeshua's life was taken up again for our life and salvation - by His continual intercession for us He is able to save to the uttermost
- Because Yeshua lives, we too shall live (*John 14: 19*)
- Yeshua has the keys of Hades and of Death (*Revelation 1: 18*) - by His death he abolished death and destroyed the power of the enemy

- **He Lives Forever** - His Priesthood depends upon His own Life, and because He lives forever His priesthood is unchanging

'But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.'

Hebrews 7: 24

- Yeshua's life is the ground of His lasting priesthood
- We shall be Saved by His Life - preserved unto salvation since *'He ever lives to make intercession for us'*

*'For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, **much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**'*

Romans 5: 10

- **Yeshua has the Final Word**

- Satan's Accusations will not Prevail

*'Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? **It is God who justifies.** Who is he who condemns? **It is Christ who died,** and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also makes intercession for us.'***

Romans 8: 33-34

- Yeshua's shed blood has all sufficient merit
 - Yeshua is our Mediator before God's throne - *'He ever lives to make intercession for us'*
 - Yeshua's life and intercession must prevail against all accusation and objection - grounded upon His Life Laid Down and His life Taken Up
- **Grounded Upon Yeshua's Merits**
 - **His Death is Sufficient**
 - The Validity of His Merits - the full sufficiency of His death for our salvation - the blood of sprinkling on the heavenly mercy seat is fully acceptable to God for our sin
 - Yeshua's has entered the most holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us - not only is His death fully satisfactory for sin, but He is fully qualified and accredited to be our Mediator

*'For **Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands,** which are copies of the true, **but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;** not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared **to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. **To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.'***

Hebrews 9:24-28

- Therefore - Yeshua's intercession is fully effective because of the full sufficiency of His death for our salvation
- **The Merit of Yeshua's Blood**
 - The blood of Yeshua speaks a better thing than the blood of Abel - it speaks of grace, mercy and forgiveness

*'But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, **to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.'***

Hebrews 12: 22-24

- The efficacy of His blood lasts as long as He does - and Yeshua lives forevermore
- Yeshua's blood has value sufficient not only for our redemption and justification, but also as a ground for the continual intercession of Yeshua for the preservation of our salvation.
- Yeshua is therefore able to act as our fully effective Mediator and Intercessor before the Father in heaven

- **The Efficacy of Yeshua's Intercession**

- Grounded Upon A Covenant - a new and better covenant
- Confirmed by an Oath - guaranteeing His status and our acceptance
- Made Continuous by His Life - since He ever lives to make intercession for us
- Made Valid by His Merits - fully accredited to be Mediator and Intercessor

'Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.'

Hebrews 7: 25