

A Life of Intercession

I. The principle of intercession

A. God's primary means of government is through intercession. This is most clearly seen in that Jesus - the head of God's government - is the great intercessor.

Hebrews 7:25 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.

Romans 8:34 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.

1) He created by the power of His Word

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the...waters. 3 God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 9 God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together...and it was so... 11 God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass...and it was so... 26 God said, "Let Us make man in Our image..."

a. The 'Us' points to the action of the full Trinity. God does everything in partnership. This is the foundational premise of intercession – the Father intends to do something, the Spirit moves to bring it about. But first someone must speak forth the will of God.

b. As the Word of God, Jesus is the intercessor of the Trinity. He spoke forth the desire of the Father and by His Word the universe was made.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Hebrews 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

2) He sustains by the power of His Word

Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power...

Colossians 1:17 (NAS) He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

3) He will receive the earth as His inheritance by asking for it

Psalms 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

John 17:24 "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.

4) He is continually interceding for us (**Heb 7:25, Rom 8:34**)

Luke 22:31 And the Lord said, "Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren." 33 But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You, both to prison and to death." 34 Then He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster shall not crow this day before you will deny three times that you know Me."

B. Humanity was created to participate in that government.

1) Governing with God is our inheritance in this age and the age to come.

a. It was God's purpose from the very beginning

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

b. It is a fundamental part of New Covenant life

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. 11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. 12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. 15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

c. It is the center of God's fully restored creation for all of eternity

Revelation 5:8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 22:3 And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. 4 They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. 5 There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

2) Like Jesus, our chief means of doing so is through intercession

Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

- a. We were uniquely created with everything needed to function as intercessors: dominion and free will (**Gen 1:26, 2:16**).
 - i The very fact that our decisions have consequences bears witness to the authority that God has given us.
 - ii God is sovereign, but because He loves voluntary partnership He allows our free will to have consequences.
 - iii When we use our free will to rebel against God there are negative consequences (the fall).
 - iv When we voluntarily join our free will in agreement with God's the life and power of the kingdom of God is released.

- b. God desires to relate with us in the same way that He relates with Himself in the Trinity.

John 17:20 “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 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. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 “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. 25 O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. 26 And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

- i God, who is entirely self-sufficient, desires. God is love, and love is desire. And God desires love.
- ii God in His wisdom knows that what causes us to love Him is getting to know Him at a deeper level. So He created us for a dynamic interaction and partnership with Him.

- c. Because of love, God, by sovereign choice, has chosen to move when we ask.

Matthew 7:7 “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened... 11 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

James 5:16 ...The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17

Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

2 Chronicles 7:13 When I shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones...4 Again He said to me, “Prophecy to these bones... 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

Luke 18:7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night?... 8I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

- d. Because of love, God, by sovereign choice, has chosen NOT to move without us

James 4:2 ...you do not have because you do not ask.

Ezekiel 22:29 The people of the land have used oppressions, committed robbery, and mistreated the poor and needy; and they wrongfully oppress the stranger. 30 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. 31 Therefore I have poured out My indignation on them; I have consumed them with the fire of My wrath; and I have recompensed their deeds on their own heads," says the Lord GOD.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

Genesis 18:17 And the LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, 18 since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? 19 For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."... 22 Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, but Abraham still stood before the LORD.

- e. The way that God interacts with humanity is part of His glory – what sets Him apart from all other gods.

Isaiah 64:4 For since the beginning of the world Men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, Nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.