

INTERCESSOR

Isaiah 59:16 He saw that *there* was no man,
And wondered that *there* was no **intercessor**;
Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him;
And His own righteousness, it sustained Him.

Scholars have identified as many as 700 titles and names for Jesus in the Bible.

Jesus said of Himself that He was the Alpha and the Omega. Those are the first letter and the last letter of the Greek alphabet. We would say that Jesus is A-to-Z. He's the entire alphabet. He is everything God wants to say to you – the entire language of God.

We've been going through our alphabet to identify some of the 700 titles and names. We're going, as it were, from A-to-Z. So far we've looked at these biblical names, from A through H:

1. The Last **A**dam
2. The **B**ridegroom
3. The **C**omforter
4. The **D**oor
5. The **E**xpress Image of God.
6. The **F**irstborn from the dead
7. **G**od.
8. The **H**ead of the Body.

That brings us to the letter **I**. Some of the 'I' names of Jesus are:

1. Image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15).
2. Immanuel, meaning *God with us* (Isaiah 7:14).
3. I Am (John 8:58).

Our text in Isaiah names the Lord, *Intercessor*. The chapter is a discussion of Israel's sin against God. It begins by pointing out that God is not unwilling to save. His arm is not too short; He is not hard of hearing. Israel's sin has separated them from God. Sin prevented prayer from being answered. Those sins included murder, lying, injustice, and planning evil. Their actions were like those of deadly poisonous snakes, for they were harming each other. Just as people

can see through cobwebs, which therefore are inappropriate for clothing, so God could see through the evil deeds of these people and judge them.

He realized there was no man to intercede on her behalf. God would Himself need to become their **Intercessor**. He would provide righteousness and salvation. He will return to establish His promises and pour His Spirit upon Israel.

The **Intercessor** of Isaiah is Jesus, our **Intercessor**. We read in the Gospel of John,

John 17:9 "I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.

John 17:20 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

Here is what we've learned so far:

1. God desires to save you, but your sin separates you from Him.
2. Since no mere man could successfully plead with God on your behalf, He became your **Intercessor**. To do so, He had to be Immanuel – God with us, fully God and fully man.
3. He provides righteousness and salvation... Will return to establish His promises... He pours out upon you His Spirit.

But His role as **Intercessor** goes even further:

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.

The picture this paints for us is of Jesus, in Heaven, functioning as a Great High Priest, in constant prayer for you. Not just for us; but for me personally, and you personally.

Is there any doubt in your mind that the Father hears the prayers of Jesus? Is there any doubt in your mind that the Father always answers the prayers of your Intercessor? There is comfort in simply reminding ourselves that every moment of every day, Jesus is offering powerful prayer on your behalf.

There are at least two things that we want to point out about our **Intercessor**: He is *permanent*, and He is *perfecting* you.

Your Intercessor is permanent. In the verse just before Hebrews 7:25, you read,

Hebrews 7:23 Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing.

Hebrews 7:24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

There were “many” Levitical priests. There were several functions and no priest could perform them all. They served on a rotating basis; eventually they retired or died. In contrast, Jesus **continues forever**. His priesthood is **unchangeable**, meaning it will never be replaced.

Have you ever found a doctor or counselor that you could really relate to and who could really help you – only to have that person move away, retire, or die? Jesus is everything you need and He can never move away, retire, or die!

Your Intercessor is perfecting you. 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. **Save** encompasses all the aspects of biblical salvation: election, justification, sanctification, and glorification. **Save to the uttermost** is sometimes interpreted by evangelists as *save from the guttermost*. While it is true that Jesus can save the most wretched sinner from the gutter, the phrase doesn't look *back*; it looks *forward*. **Uttermost** is from two words meaning *all* and *complete*. You will arrive at your final destiny spiritually mature, whole, and complete.

Your **Intercessor** is permanently working to perfect you.

Imagine having:

1. An expert mechanic with you on every car trip
2. An expert chef preparing every meal
3. An expert team of doctors at every check-up
4. An expert golf pro watching every swing

Imagine having history's one and only Savior - an expert at solving your biggest, most worrisome problems as well as your little, trifling concerns - working on your case all the time.

By faith, you don't have to imagine. He exists! He lives in you. And, according to Hebrews 7:25, he is constantly interceding for you with the Father.

Don't wallow in your sin; don't carry around burdens too heavy to bear. In all your decisions, trust Jesus. Gather all your mistakes and weaknesses, and give them to him.

