

# *Will You Intercede?*

As long as there is an intercessor,  
there is hope.

**D e r e k   P r i n c e**

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## FORWARD

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**D**erek Prince not only believed in intercession—teaching on the topic, writing about it in books and articles, and involving himself personally in it as an expression of his service to the Lord. He also lined up with others who believed that intercession was a practice the Lord could use to change history. And so it has.

From November 21–24 in 1973, Derek Prince was one of the main speakers at a national leadership conference at the Deauville Hotel in Miami Beach, Florida. The event was sponsored by Christian Growth Ministries, publishers of *New Wine* magazine, an international Christian publication. Joining Derek on the speakers' platform for that conference were Don Basham, David Edwards and Ern Baxter—and the teaching that came forth during that gathering was rich and substantive. But it was a special meeting of a handful of dedicated Christians during the days of that conference which would bring about the birth of a significant new organization encouraging intercessory prayer.

Earlier in 1973, Derek had released his landmark book, *Shaping History through Prayer and Fasting*. So, his attendance at the small gathering of intercessors made sense. All the delegates

coalesced around the concept that if nations were to be changed, it would happen only through persistent prayer and intercession. Out of that common agreement was birthed an organization which marked its beginning in late November 1973: Intercessors for America.

Derek Prince was one of that organization's original founders, along with John Talcott (who would become the founding president of IFA), John Beckett, Jay Fesperman, John Heard, George Gillies and Warren Black—all representatives of the business community as well as the religious community. The organization was destined to expand internationally from those small beginnings—spreading its influence to other nations and continuing strong from that day to the present.

Scripture admonishes us in Zechariah 4:10 (NLT): *“Do not despise these small beginnings [the day of small things, NKJV], for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.”* Surely the Lord was rejoicing that day in late November 1973, as this group was formed to spread the principles of intercessory prayer.

It is impossible to know exactly what changes in history, both great and small, have resulted from the intercessory prayers of believers in every nation of the world. In honor of that labor of love, we are pleased to present this book containing a portion of Derek Prince's teaching on this vital topic of intercession. It is our hope that what you read here will encourage, affirm and inspire you.

We dedicate this book to you—and to every person in every part of the world who has answered God's call to pray and intercede. Only in heaven will we fully comprehend all that has been accomplished by your dedicated, selfless service in prayer.

This book is for you.

—*The International Publishing Team of Derek Prince Ministries*

## INTRODUCTION

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In this book, I want to focus on one of the highest and most powerful ministries open to any Christian: the ministry of intercession. I believe this ministry is God’s answer to problems that cannot be resolved in any other way: problems in the lives of individuals or in families or the problems of whole nations.

First of all, let’s define what is meant by intercession. The word *intercession* in English actually comes from a Latin root which means “to come in between.” In the other languages that are relevant to Scripture—both Hebrew and Greek—the word has basically the same meaning: “to come in between.” An intercessor is one who comes in between.

“In between” whom or what? The answer is that the intercessor comes in between God and the objects of God’s just wrath and judgment. The intercessor stands before God, taking a position between the Lord and those who deserve His wrath and judgment. By so doing, the intercessor says, in effect, “God, I acknowledge Your justice. You have every right to smite these people. But if You smite them, You’re going to have to smite me too, because I’m standing in between You and them.”

That is the role of the intercessor. And that will be the focus of this book.

## CHAPTER 1

# THE EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM

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To begin our study of this theme of intercession, we will look at a number of the Lord's servants who played the role of intercessors. You will find that all of them were people close to the heart of God. In fact, I believe this particular posture—this ministry of intercession—is something very, very close to the heart of God.

The first example we will look at is the example of Abraham interceding on behalf of the city of Sodom. Sodom was a very wicked city and ripe for God's judgment. In the eighteenth chapter of Genesis, we read how the Lord had come to visit Abraham. The Lord had two angels with Him, and Abraham welcomed them and entertained them. In due course, they gave Abraham the promise of the heir that was to come: Isaac.

As they were getting ready to move on, the Lord told Abraham, "I'm going on to have a look at the city of Sodom for Myself to see if it's really as bad as the reports I've heard about it." At this point, we will look at Genesis 18, beginning at verse 17:

*The Lord said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do . . . ? [A Scripture passage in Amos 3:7 says that God will do nothing except He reveals His secrets*

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to His prophet. Abraham was a prophet, so God wanted to share His counsel, His purposes and His thoughts with him.]

*And the Lord said, “The outcry of Sodom and Gomorrah is indeed great, and their sin is exceedingly grave.*

*“I will go down now, and see if they have done entirely according to its outcry, which has come to Me; and if not, I will know.”*

*Then the men turned away from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham was still standing before the Lord.* [Please notice those words: *“Abraham was standing before the Lord.”* He was standing between the Lord and the city of Sodom, which was the object of God’s pending judgment.]

*Abraham came near and said, “Will You indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?*

*“Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will You indeed sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous who are in it?*

*“Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” (NASB)*

## Notable Points

Having read this passage, I now want to point out the main features of this situation and its implications for intercession. I have already suggested that we need to see Abraham’s posture. He was standing before the Lord—standing between the Lord and Sodom, as it were. He was, in effect, holding up his hand and saying, “Lord, don’t go any farther.”