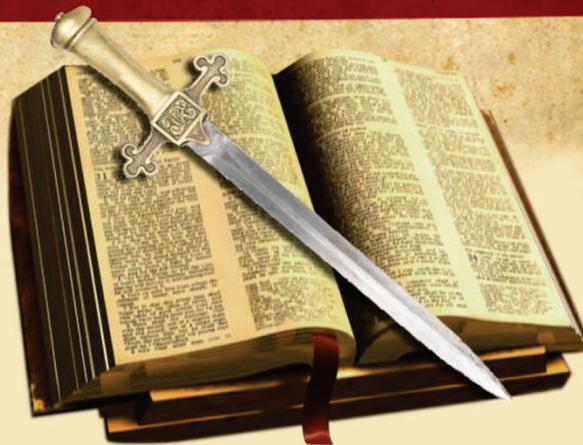


# Setting Your Heart on the Kingdom



ISAIAH

## *What Stuns God?*

*(The Principle of Intercession and Restoration)*

Isaiah 59:14-16; 63:4-5

Isaiah was stunned! The sins of his people were absolutely appalling. So great were their iniquities that God had to hide His face from them. Their hands were defiled with blood. Their lips spoke falsehood and wickedness. Their minds conceived mischief. Their feet ran to violence and evil. There was no justice in the land...only perversion. Like men without eyes, they groped in darkness (*Is. 59:1-15*). Isaiah was shocked, for in spite of the grave consequences of their sins, Israel refused to repent. ***And God was stunned too. But His astonishment wasn't for their sins...it was because there was no one to intercede for them (Ezek. 22:9-31)!***

The principle of intercession flows from two fundamental truths...God's infinite mercy and man's mission to restore the earth. So great is God's mercy that He desires to restore the sinner, no matter how guilty he may be. ***The Lord actually searches for an advocate...someone to plead the case of a condemned man and avert His judgment.*** What an incredible opportunity! As with Abraham, the Lord pre-declares His intention to bring punishment...then waits to see if anyone will intercede for mercy instead (*Gen. 18:17-32*). ***It literally "stuns" (from the Hebrew word "shamem") God that a human being, created in His own compassionate image, does nothing.***

***True intercession is more than just praying for a person...it's standing between the sinner and God's judgment!*** Listen with your spirit, dear saint. God created you to be His vessel of reconciliation...restoring lost souls to Himself (*2 Cor. 5:18-20*). Look around you. Do you see someone stumbling in sin's darkness, held by its demonic grip? God loves that person. Do you hear the Lord's merciful warning? Eternal punishment awaits him unless he repents. If you are a redeemed child of God, you can't just sit back in apathy and watch him self-destruct. But what if that person has sinned against you? Remember that you also have sinned. Jesus is your Advocate...pleading your case as well (*Heb. 7:25*). Hear the cry of our Savior on Calvary's cross, ***"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*** ***Jesus invites you to enter into His ministry of intercession...pleading for a world lost in sin.***

***Next: The Kingdom of God in Jeremiah...Believe God More Than Your Heart!***

