

GROWING IN GOD

PODCAST



GIG261 – Christ Ever Lives to Intercede for Us

Hi, thanks for joining me. I appreciate you being a part of this podcast today. I have been doing a lot of thinking as I have been reviewing the final copy of the book that was just completed, which is titled *God's Final Solution REVEALED*. It is now available on Amazon. I might as well give a plug for it, since I am mentioning it in the podcast. But it is available now, it has been something that has been worked on for a long time, and I am appreciative that it is completed and now available for people to receive. One of the last steps that I had to take myself was to read through the entirety of the final copy in order to approve it, so that it could be printed and distributed. So I have been in the process of doing that over the last several weeks.

One of the things that really was impressed upon me by the Lord was one particular point of this book, and I wanted to share it with you. Obviously, the book is about anti-Semitism and the need for us to get rid of anti-Semitism. It especially addresses the issue of anti-Semitism within the church, as well as in the world; but it emphasizes this reality that there is anti-Semitism within the church that must be dealt with. We must get rid of it out of our lives and out of our churches. So that is kind of an emphasis to it. And yet, what really struck me was another part of it, and this is because of our real commitment to minister to Israel and to the Jewish people over so many years now. This has been an ongoing revelation since the Lord really made it real to me in my life through the mentors that I had, John Stevens, and also Shlomo Hizak, thanks to the ministry of the AMI center there in Jerusalem and the teachers that were brought in to talk to us about the issue of Jewish-Christian relations. And Hargrave Ministries is still very active in that area, and I am personally very active and concerned about it, because it is very, very real to me.

Sometimes people say, "Why is that a focus? Are you going too far with this? Why do we have to make an emphasis out of Israel, out of the Jewish people, out of Judaism, focusing on the Hebrew Scriptures?" This is what really came alive to me again in the reading through of this book, because I recognize even afresh in reading through it the commitment that God has made to Israel through His different covenants, which are covered very clearly in and throughout this book. He has made covenants, and He has placed Himself and His Word behind these covenants and these agreements that He has made with David, with Abraham, with all of Israel itself at Sinai. But one of the things that comes across, because you are studying about anti-Semitism, is that people say, "Well, Israel sinned, and they failed in following through all the Law. You read in the Hebrew Scriptures that they were not faithful at this time or that time; look at the period of the Judges, when so many times you would have Israel really being given to the Lord and burning down all the altars of the idols, and then going back into it. The same was true during the period of the Kings; you read that this king really followed after the Lord, then you have another king that comes along and all of Israel goes back into idol worship, or whatever. And this is happening over and over again." And of course, it is part of the root of what people have focused on in anti-Semitism, and replacement theology as well: Israel sinned, and so God has left them and rejected them, and He has replaced Israel with Christians and Christianity; and that is now where His choosing is and His chosen people are, and that is where His covenants are. And that is just such an error.

But get the book and read about that part of it. What I want to focus on right here is this idea of the opposite: God has never rejected Israel, and He is always faithful to Israel. That really affects me personally in my walk as a believer in Yeshua being the Messiah; because I have not always felt in Christianity that we really have that confidence that we are not going to be rejected, that God will not reject us, Christ will not reject us. There is almost this sense that I have had, and maybe it is just me, maybe it is the churches that I was involved with as a youth, that makes you kind of feel like if you blow it, then there is no way back, that you can lose out with God and God Himself is going to reject you and send you to hell. I have talked to believers quite a bit over the last many years who have that sense that they have blown it, and that there is no way back. And I think, in really studying the Hebrew Scriptures, in studying Judaism, in studying the Jewish people and God's promises to them throughout the Scriptures, that that is not a possibility where God is concerned. He is not a man that He should lie, and He does not make covenants to break those covenants. He does not make promises to break those promises, and He steps in with the force of Himself because He cannot lie. And so, when He promises you salvation in the relationship we have with Yeshua, with Christ as Christians, He has promised that if we believe, then we are saved. And that does not go away. It is a covenant that He made. During the Last Supper a new covenant in His blood was made that included the Gentile believers who are grafted in to all of the promises.

So I want to read something out of Psalms the eighty-ninth chapter, starting with verse 28. It says, "My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to him." Now these verses are talking about, on the obvious side, King David and the promises and covenant that God made with David. As you read it, you also realize these are Messianic prophecies talking about Yeshua and the relationship that the Father had with Christ, His Son; so both of these things come into play. But the issue, as it goes along, is that it is talking about this idea of the Jewish people as a covenant people. I will start over reading it again with that in mind. Verses 28-37:

"My lovingkindness I will keep for him forever, and My covenant shall be confirmed to him. So I will establish his descendants [which are the Jewish people] forever and his throne as the days of heaven. If his sons forsake My law and do not walk in My judgments, if they violate My statutes and do not keep My commandments, then I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes. But I will not break off My lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. My covenant I will not violate, nor will I alter the utterance of My lips. Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David. His descendants shall endure forever and his throne as the sun before Me. It shall be established forever like the moon, and the witness in the sky is faithful." Selah.

So we see this, and this deals with a lot of the issues that are talked about when we deal with the idea of anti-Semitism. Because again, part of the root of it goes into this thought that Israel sinned – the children of Israel sinned, the Jewish people sinned, whatever – and then God rejected them. Instead, when you read the Hebrew Scriptures, you come time and time and time again to this understanding that they are an example. In fact, the New Testament says that to us, that they are an example, that these things happened as an example to us as believers, and we should watch ourselves and follow these examples.

So we see that God constantly did correct, punish; He was a father to Israel. They were His children, and He fathered them, as we understand good parenting, that He would discipline them and punish them for what they did. And He says right here, "I will punish their transgressions with a rod and their iniquities with stripes." The punishment of Israel has been severe down through the Scriptures. But also, He says,

"I will never violate My covenant and the utterance of My lips." And this is the idea to me that I come out of the Hebrew Scriptures with, is this understanding that God has made promises to me as a believer in Yeshua, and He will never, never go back on those promises. I may mess up a thousand ways, I may mess up day after day; and though we on a human level would at some point get exasperated and give up, God does not do that. He does not back away, does not violate.

I want to read some other verses out of Jeremiah the thirty-first chapter about this idea of God's covenant and His promises, and how He will remove sin but never give up on the covenant or reject His people. Jeremiah 31:31-34,

"Behold, days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the Lord. "But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the Lord, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the Lord, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Not only does God forgive, He forgets. That is the gold standard of forgiveness, the forgetfulness that follows it.

Verses 35-37,

Thus says the Lord, who gives the sun for light by day and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar; the Lord of hosts is His name: "If this fixed order departs from before Me," declares the Lord, "then the offspring of Israel also will cease from being a nation before Me forever." Thus says the Lord, "If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel for all that they have done," declares the Lord.

So that is a pretty sure promise. You can look at all that Israel has done, all that has happened through the Scriptures for this people, and there is no one thing. God said, "Listen, if the sun stops coming up in the morning, if the moon stops coming out at night and the stars also; if the sea begins to violate its borders, if all of these natural occurrences that we see on the earth go away; and by the way, if you can take a measuring tape up to heaven – and I do not know how big that would be and how large a spacecraft it would take to carry it into the heavens, or if you could even find the heavens with some type of a spacecraft – it says, "If the heavens above can be measured and the foundations of the earth searched out below, then I will also cast off all the offspring of Israel..." What is this Scripture saying? God very eloquently, being very picturesque in His language, is saying, "Never, never will I ever reject Israel from being My people. I will never cast off the offspring of Israel." It just will not be done.

What I am saying in this podcast, and I am emphasizing this point slightly because it could be gone into much more deeply, is that I want us as believers in Yeshua, believers in Christ as our Messiah, believers in the sacrifice on the cross, to have this same confidence and understanding; that because of what God has provided for us through His Son in the shedding of His blood, in the sacrifice of His life, in His death, in His burial, in His resurrection, we will never be rejected by God. If we believe in these promises and these covenants that He has given to us as Gentile believers in Christ, we cannot be rejected. Because

it does not stop – even with these things of the cross, of the grave, of resurrection, it never stops; Christ never stops ministering to us this salvation.

Let's look, for example, at Hebrews the seventh chapter, starting with verses 24-25. It says, "But Jesus, on the other hand, because He continues forever, holds His priesthood permanently. Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." He always lives to make intercession for you. Your salvation does not just continue forever through eternity because you never blow it and you never make a mistake, and you never fail and you never fall on your face, and you do not stop sinning and are perfected in all of your actions. Yet there is that feeling and that sense that I get many times in Christianity that you better watch it, because your salvation is something you can lose.

If you study theology, this is actually a great point of discussion within theology: "Can you lose your salvation? Is it something that can be gained and then lost?" And I think you need to read through some of these Scriptures again and see that Christ lives forever in His resurrection, but He lives forever because He makes intercession daily, always. He is always living to make intercession for us. This is such a beautiful picture, and I just want to have it solidified into our minds and hearts that His love for us, His intercession for us, will never be removed.

Verses 26-27 go on to say, "For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens; who does not need daily, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because this He did once for all when He offered up Himself." This is the salvation that we have. This is the priesthood that we have, which ministers to us on a daily basis.

Romans 8 also discusses this in very deep, almost confronting terminology. I think a lot of people have a hard time wrapping their hearts, minds, and spirits around some of these areas in Romans 8. I am going to start with verses 24-28.

For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it. In the same way the Spirit [capital S, so it is talking about the Holy Spirit] also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

That is exactly what we see in the Hebrew Scriptures. We see that God is always causing all things to work together in the end for good for His covenant people, for the Jewish people, for Israel, because that is His promise to them. Whatever they do, whatever they go through, God has a way of causing all those things to work together for good. And He does that in your life as a believer in Yeshua, as a believer in the cross, in the salvation that comes to us through Christ – God through Christ is constantly causing all things to work together for good because you are loving God and you are given to God in your walk with Him, and you are called according to His purpose. He called you.

Verses 29-34,

For those whom He foreknew [which is you], He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He

predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.

Please, open your heart to these words on another level. Let them live in your life. They get worn down by the things we face, by what we go through.

I think one of the hardest things to do many times is to forgive ourselves, is to forget; because remember, if you really forgive, you forget. If you really forgive yourself, you are going to forget those violations, and you are going to find in your life that God is working to make all things come together for your good. You are going to come to the realization that no one can condemn you, not even yourself. "There is now therefore no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." Christ is He who died; nobody else died, therefore nobody has a right to condemn. If anybody would have a right to condemn it would be Christ, and He has given up that right on the cross. He has not condemned you, He has forgiven you: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Verses 34-35,

Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is [right now, this second] at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? [This great love of Christ, where He gave Himself for us.] Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

I know in our flesh and our human nature, any one of these things seems on a daily basis to be able to separate us from the love of Christ. We forget so easily that He is there every moment at the right hand of God making intercession for us.

Verses 36-39,

Just as it is written, "For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered." But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We have to have this burned into our hearts and our minds, into our conscience, to recognize it. This is what we get when we read the Hebrew Scriptures and we understand God's relationship with the Jewish people, with His covenants that He has made with them, that nothing they can do will make God separate Himself because He has promised by Himself with His own name, and He cannot lie. So when we are grafted into these same covenants through our salvation, through the faith in Abraham, in Christ, in the Words that He has given throughout the Scriptures, we likewise have been grafted into covenants that cannot be broken. He will not walk away from you. He will not desert you. Never will He forsake you. He says that in Hebrews, He says that in Deuteronomy: God will never forsake you. He will never leave you. Get that thought out of your mind, get that concept out of your mind; the drive of the Scriptures is to get through to us the understanding that His love is unbreakable, His covenants are unbreakable, and His promises to us will stand through eternity.

God loves you. He has provided His Son as your Messiah, as the sacrifice for your sins past, present, and future. He will never leave you. He will never go back on His Word, and Christ's love for you can never be broken. Nothing is able to separate you from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus.

Never, never forget these words.

Amen.