

Prayer that Sets Boundaries of Protection

In the Old Testament there are only five references to “intercession.” It’s from the Hebrew word *pagha’* (which has the same root meaning as the New Testament word for intercession).

***Pagha’* is translated in other ways in the Old Testament, with primarily three key meanings:—**

1. Light upon by chance

Jacob (Genesis 28:11) fleeing Esau “lighted upon a certain place and tarried there all night....” He was there by chance, and he met God. When someone or something comes to mind “by chance” it’s our opportunity to meet with God on their behalf in intercession.

2. To meet in battle, to fall upon

King Saul was pursuing David (1 Samuel 22:1-19) and believed wrongly that the high priest had betrayed him. At his order, Doeg “fell upon the priests” (*pagha’*) and killed them with his sword.

Pagha’ in this sense shows intercession as a principal instrument of spiritual warfare (think sword of the Spirit). In prayer we “fall upon the enemy.”

3. To set boundaries

In Joshua 19 *pagha’* is used six times to refer to setting boundaries around territory God had given tribes of Israel. *Pagha’* intercession deals with setting boundaries around individuals, marriages, families, churches....

***Pagha’* as intercession—**

1. When God brings someone or something to mind, we’re to “light upon them” in prayer.
2. When our King quickens our heart we’re to be ready to “meet the enemy, to fall upon the enemy in prayer” (Jesus in the wilderness used the Word of God; the sword of the Spirit is the spoken Word of God). We’re to meet the enemy in battle, standing our ground, declaring the truth:

God is a wall of fire around us.... (Zechariah 2:5)

He surrounds us as the mountains surround Jerusalem.... (Psalm 125:2)

He is our Mighty Warrior (Jeremiah 20:11), the Commander of the armies of heaven.... (Joshua 5:15)

Our Strong Tower (Psalm 61:3), our fortress (Psalm 31:3), our Stronghold (Psalm 43:2),

Our sure foundation (Isaiah 28:16), the rock on which we stand (Psalm 94:22),

Our Shepherd who protects and defends us (Psalm 23:1), our Most High God (Psalm 91:1)....

3. In prayer we can set protective boundaries around the individuals, marriages, and families reached through our ministry.