

ONE MEDIATOR

Exodus 34: 1-17

I suppose there is no more noble vocation than that of mediator. To engage in conflict resolution is beneficial and necessary to all, for all will at some time in life need the expertise of a qualified and skilled mediator.

Especially is this true in spiritual matters. Sinners are at odds with a holy and righteous God who will in no wise clear the guilty. At odds are a Just God and Savior and those dead in trespasses and sin. On the one hand, a holy God who must punish sin and those sinners he must bring to final glory. *“The soul that sinneth it shall surely die;”* yet *“blessed are they that die in the Lord.”* How can ever the twain meet? There is only one way: Through a Mediator, but not just any mediator. Sinners need one qualified and willing to act as communicator and reconciler. A holy God will not commune or fellowship with the ungodly. The ungodly have nothing with which to mediate, or access to a holy God but by means of a Mediator, and on their own, will never seek God’s Mediator. That’s why God has a controversy with his people.

Read Hosea 12:2. *“The LORD hath also a controversy with Judah, (southern kingdom) and will punish Jacob according to his ways; according to his doings will he recompense him.”*

Read Micah 6:2. *“Hear you, O mountains, (of Samaria, the ten northern tribes) the LORD’S controversy, and you strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.”* How will God plead with his people? Through a mediator. *“Come now, let us reason together saith the Lord, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”* Though you are ignorant of it now, I will send my Mediator to inform and instruct you in the reality of and the remedy for your sin.

This raises the question: who is God’s Mediator? Is he my mediator? Who has mediated for me to a holy God who has a controversy with me? We all have one we listen to and lean on in their mediatorial skills. But is our mediator God’s Mediator? I’m sure the answer to that question would receive an affirmative vote. But how can I know if my Mediator is the one God appointed? John the Apostle warned us even in his day that *“Many are gone out into the world.”*

Read 1 Timothy 2:5 *“There is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus.”* This statement was not given just as an ðO by the way.ö It is vital because sinners look to some mediator other than God’s appointed Mediator.

Every sinner by nature seeks a mediator who will speak peace and comfort to his soul without concern for God’s glory and salvation. I was almost fifty years old before I discovered my mediator to be an imposter. Since all by nature reject God’s Mediator, they are in essence mediating for themselves. Many claim 1 Peter 2:9 as their authority, *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”* It is true that those whom God has made a royal Priesthood have access to the throne of grace, but not to mediate on their own for themselves. It is through God’s Mediator alone we *“come boldly to the throne of grace, that we might find grace to help in time of need.”*

We who are justified before God know that man by nature will never come to God on his own. Proof of that is God’s testimony in John 5:40 *“And ye will not come to me that you might have life;”* coupled with the many who hear and reject the gospel. Instrumental to our coming is a suitable Mediator.

Webster defines mediator as one who ðoccupies a middle position.ö To mediate is to exhibit indirect causation between two opposing parties to a mutually agreeable solution. The rights and responsibilities of each party must be considered and a fair and equitable settlement sought. Advantage of one over the other will leave the conflict unresolved.

In spiritual matters the situation is different. That’s why we need a special Mediator. That’s why no substitute will get the job done.

Sinners by nature raise the question; why do we need a mediator? Why not just let everything work itself out? Why fix something that seems to not be broken? I’m doing just fine with God. *“Me and Jesus got our own thing going.”*

But things are not as they seem. Things are broken. Mainly God’s law is broken. Resulting from that, our fellowship with the Father is broken, leaving us alienated and enemies in our minds, ignorant of His ways and his will, which is tantamount to spiritual death and open active rebellion against God, leaving us liable to its punishment. And that punishment is eternal death. We have only to look to the cross to see God’s intense hatred for sin. He ðWho spared not his own Sonö when sin was imputed to him will render no less to those who are charged with sin.

What is so unique about Christ that makes him qualified to be God’s Mediator?

It is his Person; who he is. It is his work; what he has done, is doing and will yet do.

Consider this: Had not God the Father appointed God the Son Mediator we would be without hope in this life and that to come. He alone is qualified to mediate between a holy God and sinful creatures. He alone has God's attention, his audience and his ear. He alone can mediate to God on behalf of sinners because of his Person and work. Who is this Mediator of God's appointment?

Read Exodus 34:5-7 *5 And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."*

The one Mediator between God and man is THE LORD, THE LORD GOD. He is JEHOVAH who saves. This name is commonly used to teach us of the God-Head, Father, Son and Holy Ghost. This is found throughout the Scriptures.

Read Zechariah 2:9-10 *"For, behold, I will shake mine hand upon them, and they shall be a spoil to their servants: and ye shall know that the LORD of hosts (JEHOVAH the Father) hath sent me. 10 ¶ Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion: for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD."*(JEHOVAH the Son)

Read Psalm 110:1 *"The LORD (JEHOVAH the Father) said unto my Lord, (JEHOVAH the Son) Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. In Jeremiah 23:6 Christ is called THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, JEHOVAH TSIDKENU. And one other verse: Numbers 6:24-26*

V-24 *"The Lord (JEHOVAH the Father) bless thee, and keep thee:"*

V-25 *"The Lord (JEHOVAH the Son) make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee."*

V-26 *"The Lord (JEHOVAH THE Holy Ghost) lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."*

What qualifies God's appointed Mediator to be so? His person, who he is.

Matthew 1:23 *"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God (JEHOVAH) with us."*

Read Colossians 1: 16 *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."*

He is qualified to be our Mediator because he is Very God of Very God. He is the second Person of the holy Trinity. God the Son, equal with the Father in every attribute of his Deity, subordinate only in his offices to secure the salvation of his people. Man cannot create. But this man, who is God created the worlds. This is attributed to his Deity.

But he's more: he is God-Man. He is the only begotten Son of God who took into union with his Deity, true sinless humanity, body and soul.

He is the Lord, JEHOVAH the Son (**Philippians 2:6**) *“who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”*

God can't die, but this man who is God did die. Death can be attributed only to his humanity for God can't die. He took nothing from God by claiming to be equal with God. John 10:30 *“I and my Father are one.”* John 14:9 *“If you've seen me, you've seen the Father.”*

Read Hebrews 4:15 Though he be fully God he is fully man. *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”* Christ, our Mediator suffered the same infirmities as do we. Every temptation we suffered he did so himself, without sin. (He did not sin, he did not become sin, and he was not the worst sinner who ever lived. He was **made** sin by imputation only.) He is the only God-Man Mediator. He is the only Mediator to stand in the gap between sinners and a holy God to reveal God's standard of judgment and the merits of his obedience, suffering and death on behalf of a multitude out of Adam's fallen race. Since sinners, by their very nature have nothing to offer God in order to mediate with him the charges against them, Christ, set up in eternity past as the Elect's Mediator pleads his very righteousness imputed at that which satisfies law and justice for all he represented.

The Old Testament type is Moses, mediator of the Mosaic Economy, a covenant of works. The Anti-Type is Christ, Mediator of the New (and better) Covenant, the gospel economy: a covenant of grace.

1. Both were appointed by God, Moses at the burning bush. Christ in the everlasting covenant of grace. Most today appoint themselves Mediator.

2. Both were commissioned to deliver God's will to his people. Moses, the law giver, Christ the gospel, the life giver. **Read John 1:17** *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."*

Moses ministered the law of God to Israel. This covenant of works was a school master until Christ's first advent. It could not save any one. **Read Romans 8:1-4** *There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.*

The Law was never intended as a means of salvation but given to show the impossibility of being saved by Israel's obedience and set them looking to Christ for their righteousness before God. The moral, civil ceremonial and the dietary laws were given to picture in shadow and type the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ and his Person and work as that alone which saves sinners. Israel missed this revelation and most in religion today miss it though abundantly stated.

Read John 5:45-46 *"Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust."* 46 *"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."*

Lu 24:27 *"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself."* The whole of scriptures point to Christ's Person and his work as all our salvation. Remember, all scriptures at this writing were the Old Testament.

What is that work he invokes before the Father on our behalf as Mediator?

Look again at Exodus 34:5-7 *"And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the*

children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation."The LORD, the LORD GOD (V-6) is:

1. **A merciful God.** The first thing a sinner needs is mercy. God displays this mercy in Christ, the sinners Mercy Seat. Christ is the sinners propitiation; he restores to fellowship by the blood of his cross. *öMercy there was great and grace was free.ö*
2. **A gracious God.** He is kind to men without any merit or desert on their behalf. Think about his grace. He chose his people in love in eternity past. He provided us a Savior. Our Savior worked out a perfect righteousness which God freely imputed to us. He pardoned our sins and accepted us in the beloved. He regenerated and called us and will not lose one.
3. **A long suffering God.** How patient is our God? How long did His Spirit strive with our spirit. As long as it took to convince us of our sin. He said of some; *"My Spirit will not always strive with men."* He keeps and preserves his elect. *He is" longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.ö* Thank you Lord for your longsuffering toward me.
4. **He is abundant in goodness and truth.** *"Every good and perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights in whom is no variableness or shadow of turning."*His goodness is seen in giving us the Word of Truth, the gospel. It is the truth that makes men free. *(for therein)*
5. **He is a forgiving God.** Not only forgiving but forgetting. **"Hebrews 8:12** *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."* 1John 2:12 *"I write unto you, little children, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake."*
6. **He's a just God and Savior.** *"I will in no wise clear the guilty."* **Read Hebrews 10:26-27** *"For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries."*

Those who sin willfully, (reject Christ's righteousness imputed as all their salvation) will perish. Those who reject the accomplished, finished work of Christ and add to it their own works have no sacrifice for their sins. They will face a holy and righteous God without a mediator and he will devour them.

This is why we need a Mediator. We have nothing with which to approach unto a Holy God. We have nothing of ourselves to plead before God. *"In my hand no*

price I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.””God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.” There is one Mediator.

And what is the response to this Mediator by God’s people?

Read v-8 *“And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.”* Moses, the type did what God’s Mediator always does. He interceded for and on behalf of his people. He invoked the Father on behalf of Israel. Look at his prayer. *“If I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiff necked people; and pardon our iniquities and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance.”*

That’s Christ’s prayer for his people .Read Christ’s High Priestly prayer. He said. *“I have finished the work thou gavest me to do.”*

“I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me.”

“I pray for them. I pray not for the world.”

“Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word.”

As Moses the type, so Christ the Anti-Type. God caused Moses to behold his glory in the face of Jesus Christ. He enabled Moses to see his mercy, his grace, his faithfulness, his longsuffering, his abundance in goodness and truth.

As the Anti-Type, Christ in his Person displays these attributes himself which qualifies him to plead all these mercies on behalf of his people to a holy God. It is his obedience, suffering and death coupled with his ever living to make intercession for us that God in mercy receives his sheep. The results:

Read Exodus 34:10 *“And God said, behold, I make a covenant: before all the people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in the nation: and all the people among which thou art shall see the work of the Lord: for it is a terrible thing that I will do with thee.”*

We know of the mighty miracles wrought by the hand of God in Israel’s wilderness journey and conquest of Canaan. The plagues of Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, the water from the rock, the pillar of cloud and fire, the fall of

Jericho. These truly are marvels of his power. But even greater is his work of redeeming the ungodly. How he can justify the ungodly and remain just is the marvel of all miracles. In each of these Christ is pictured in the salvation of his people. Without his successful; accomplishment of the salvation of his people, there would be no need for a Mediator. God commands, he invites sinners to *“come, let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”* He has a Mediator, ever ready to intervene to God on the behalf of the ungodly. *“There is none other name under heaven whereby we must be saved.”*

God had a controversy with Judah and Israel. **Read Micah 6:2.** *“Hear you, O mountains, (of Samaria, the ten northern tribes) the LORD’S controversy, and you strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will (mediate) plead with Israel.*

God has a controversy with spiritual Israel today. Christ in his everlasting office as Mediator stands ready to mediator your cause before a holy God. He is the one mediator between God and men.

With such a Mediator, why would anyone seek any other?

With such a righteousness, why plead my own?

With such grace, why add my works?

With so great salvation, why look to another?

With no promise of tomorrow, why not today? *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”* Between God and man is One Mediator, the God-Man.

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