

THE MEDIATION OF CHRIST

1Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

James Strong defines the Greek word *mesitēs* (mediator) as “one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant.” Ever since the Fall of Adam and Eve, God has repeatedly tried to reconcile humanity with himself. Let us consider some of the ways he has done this. “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8). The tabernacle was built in Sinai and was stationed in Shiloh and Gibeon in the days of Saul (a period of 300 years), after which it is no longer mentioned. The Temple of Solomon also lasted for 410 years only before Nebuchadnezzar destroyed it. Herod’s Temple also stood for no more than 420 years. Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen reminded the Pharisees “Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet” (Acts 7:48).

The tabernacle and temples were destroyed because they were not of God’s Word – they were of created, earthly substance, not God-substance. “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isaiah 40:8). David was praying and concerned in his palace because there was no Temple. However, God reminded him through the prophet Nathan that the coming of God in flesh was much more important than his concern for a Temple made of earth. “He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever” (2 Samuel 7:13). When the Word was made flesh (John 1:14), the prophecy to David was fulfilled. The house God is talking about is not one made of bricks and stones, but one made of the Word of God – Jesus Christ. Jesus is the house that God has built for David and for us – Hallelujah!

Next, after the failure of the tabernacle and temples, God sent prophets to his people in the hope of reconciling them to himself. “And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear” (Jeremiah 25:4). The prophets were ridiculed, arrested, stoned and killed. Jeremiah summarized the failure of the mission of the prophets with these words: “Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!” (Jeremiah 9:1). The tabernacle, temples and prophets were all representing or speaking on behalf of God. While this is important, only a person’s own words can truly express his thoughts, will and feelings. This is why God had to be manifested

in flesh – only his own word could represent him perfectly. Jesus is not God’s ambassador, he is God himself. He is his own Ambassador! We cannot compare Jesus to tabernacles and temples; they were destroyed, but Jesus said of his body, “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Jesus did not speak like the prophets, although they were blessed. “And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power” (Luke 4:32). Interestingly, the Greek word for astonished (*ekplēssō*) means “to strike one out of self-possession”. The words of the Lord Jesus were so powerful that they entered into people and struck out that which was contrary to the will of God. Let us say together, “Lord Jesus, send your words and strike out thoughts, feelings and anything that is opposed to the will of God in me”. Amen!

What is most wonderful about Jesus as the mediator between God and men is the fact that God will never abandon his own flesh. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8). All together, the tabernacle, temples and prophets ministry lasted no more than 1600 years. More than two thousand years have gone since the word was made flesh, and Jesus still reigns supreme in his Kingdom of which we are a part. Hallelujah! Of the temple of Herod the Lord Jesus said, “And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down” (Matthew 24:2). But when he died on the Cross, it was prophesied that no one would break even one bone in his divine body. “He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken” (Psalm 34:20). Not one bone was touched in the body of his Temple.

Let us summarize thus far: tabernacles, temples and prophets cannot be the perfect mediators of God because only a person’s word can represent him best. John the Baptist knew this very well which is why he made himself anonymous and said he was the voice in the wilderness – not the word/voice of God himself (Isaiah 40:3). Now let us explore the nature of the mediation of the Lord Jesus Christ. The metaphor of houses is one way to better appreciate Christ’s mediation.

Hebrews 3:5 *And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after;*

Hebrews 3:6 *But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.*

Consider most human houses! Once you enter a house and perhaps remove your shoes and jacket at the entrance, it is common to see and be invited into the living room. You would rightly be surprised if you were shown to the bedroom or, even worse, the kitchen. I have

always wondered at the choice of the term “living room” in English. Do we not “live” in every room of the house? Where, then, is the “dying” room? All joking aside, the living room normally features beautiful paintings on the wall, perhaps some family photographs (always wondered why the grandparents in the black and white pictures never smiled) and maybe a showcase with more photos and silver/Chinaware. We almost apologize for asking permission to go to other rooms in the house, for example the toilet. This is the human house. Amen!

Let us now consider the house of Jesus. Firstly, only Jesus can bring us to his house; no one can really find the address although he lives among us – in every street in every village, town and city in this world. Hallelujah! “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew 7:7). All we need to do to find the house of Jesus, is knock and say, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (Acts 2:37). Jesus opens the door with a smile full of heavenly love and embraces you. He holds you by the hand and shows you in. There is no decoration or any pictures on the wall – just these words written:

***Act 2:38** Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

You look around shocked as you see no “living room” but an altar of death. There are no photographs, carpets, showcases etc. – just this altar of sacrifice and death. Jesus begins to explain inherited and acted sin and pleads with you to die to your old self on this altar. Now you begin to understand the story of Abraham and Isaac! You plead with Jesus to bind you and raise his knife and show no mercy to the old man who is the enemy of God – the old man who did not want you to pray, repent, go to the house of God and surrender your life to him. “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Romans 8:13).

Once the Lord pins the old man to the altar, he takes you forward to the next room. You see a large basin of water. God has a graveyard – it is called baptism in Jesus name. Once when I saw a massive graveyard with beautiful capstones in a church in Norway, I sat on a bench and meditated on the word of God. The revelation came to me that the Lord Jesus also has a massive graveyard with capstones. Once a person is baptized in Jesus name, the old sinful person goes straight to God’s graveyard – the names of all who die to their sins are buried there with their names on the capstones. Hallelujah! Death is not cheap by the way.

Abraham bought the cave of Machpelah from Ephron for 400 shekels of silver which is equivalent to \$128,000 today.

Genesis 23:16 And Abraham hearkened unto Ephron; and Abraham weighed to Ephron the silver, which he had named in the audience of the sons of Heth, four hundred shekels of silver, current money with the merchant.

It was here that Sara, Abraham all the way down to Joseph were buried. The most expensive graveyard which cannot be measured in terms of money is the graveyard of baptism in Jesus name. So once you are buried in baptism in Jesus name in Jesus' house, the Lord shows you to the next room. As you enter you marvel that there is nothing whatsoever in this room, much like the Upper Room in Acts 2. But, suddenly, as on the Day of Pentecost, a rushing mighty wind enters into you and you start speaking in tongues filled with the Holy Ghost. Welcome to Jesus' "living room". Now you have fulfilled Acts 2:38. The Lord Jesus congratulates you and tells you to go ahead into the last room where you will now meet God himself. You look forward with excitement mounting – all you have done thus far was for this one purpose: to meet God Almighty, the Father himself. You turn to face Jesus, but he has disappeared but you are determined to see God – you make your way to this room which is closed. Opening the door with trembling hands you walk in and see Jesus seated on the throne smiling. He says:

Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.