

# MEDIATOR\*

*By His nature and work, Jesus intervenes between God and man to form and ratify the New Covenant.*

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
Genesis 15 <b>Job 9:27-35</b> Jeremiah 31:31-34 <b>John 10:9; 14:1-6; 16:24-33</b> <b>Romans 5:1-2</b> Galatians 3:19-20 <b>Ephesians 3:1-12</b> <b>1 Timothy 2:1-6</b> <b>Hebrews 2:9; 4:14-5:5; 6:13-20</b> <b>Hebrews 8:1-6; 9:15; 12:24</b> (Greek μεσίτης, from μέσος, “midst.” See “Advocate” in 1 John 2:1-2.)	All I Need Arise, My Soul, Arise Before the Throne of God Above I Know that My Redeemer Lives <b>I Need Thee, Precious Jesus (Ralston)</b> I Run to Christ <b>Jesus Paid It All (Sterling)</b> Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness My Hope Is in the Lord <b>Nothing but the Blood of Jesus (Courtney) SATB</b> Our Great Savior Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted <b>The Precious Blood (Hoelscher)</b> The Solid Rock When I Survey the Wondrous Cross



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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\* Part of **Hebrews** theme series; sequence is not important. See also “Advocate” in 1 John 2:2.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## BICYCLE WHEELS

*A bicycle wheel has to connect to the pedal in order to go. The chain is the mediator between the two. It has to be flexible and take on the shape of each. (Add detail on how the chain works on a bicycle.) Jesus' nature as fully God and fully man makes Him a perfect mediator. As God, Jesus took on Himself all the attributes of humanity except sinfulness, and He will be both forever. He is the bridge between God and man. Jesus is our connection to God.*

[One of our church's members Ivan Penner prepared the following worship introduction. Though he was scheduled to fly internationally this weekend, we are presenting it from his perspective this morning. Ivan says...]

As one who rides a bicycle on a regular basis, I realize the importance of getting the power that my legs produce through the pedals delivered to the wheels, which provide the forward propulsion I need. Pedals and wheels on a bike frame are not enough, by themselves, to propel me forward. The two elements must be connected somehow so that the power my legs provide can be transferred to the wheels.

In the case of a bike, that “go-between” or “mediator” between the pedals and the wheels is a bike chain. Without this component, “the bike chain,” I am left spinning in place—looking like I am doing a lot, but actually accomplishing nothing and going nowhere.

In a believer's relationship with God, we too have a necessary “go-between,” or mediator, that connects us weak and sinful human beings to an Almighty, Holy God. In the example of the bicycle, the chain *transferred* one form of power—my pedaling—to another form—turning the wheel. And Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, connects two entities that could otherwise not work together: God and man. The chain relates the pedals to the wheel. Jesus Christ is the mediator by His nature: He *is* God and He *is* man; and by His perfect life and sacrificial death in our place, Jesus connects us to God.

Paul in his inspired letter to Timothy makes it so clear: “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). Praise God that He put a way to bridge the gap between us: Jesus. Worship Christ, your Mediator! (Ivan Penner)

## OUR ADVOCATE

*We focus the Mediator concept to Jesus as Advocate. Scripture interestingly presents a dark opposite to the ministry of Christ before the Father: whereas Jesus advocates and pleads His blood on our behalf, Satan is called the Accuser of the brethren. This is a good chance to remind us of what Scripture actually says about Satan, that he is often allowed into the presence of God. See Job 1 and Revelation 12:10. What he does there is bring our sins to God's attention, as he did with Job. But what does Jesus do there? He is our Advocate. He is the one who mediates between our crimes and God's holiness. And when we sin, according to 1 John 2:2, He is the one who advocates for us.*

Scripture interestingly presents a dark opposite to the ministry of Christ before the Father: whereas Jesus advocates and pleads His blood on our behalf, Satan is called the Accuser of the brethren in Revelation 12:10. Job 1 and 2 demonstrate that Satan is sometimes allowed into the presence of God to bring testimony against believers.

This is quite the contrast to what Christ does in the presence of the Father. He is our Advocate, our mediator. Moses repeatedly illustrated this concept during the wilderness wanderings of God's people. Over and over, God's judgment would threaten to rain down upon the Israelites. And over and over, Moses would intercede before God on behalf of the people. Unlike Moses, Christ perfectly mediates between our crimes and God's holiness. And He does so on the basis of His finished work on the cross. When we sin, 1 John 2:2 tells us that He, the completely righteous One, is our advocate before the Father. Today, we thankfully acknowledge His mediatorial ministry on our behalf. (James Tilson)

## TRANSFORMING COVENANT

*Present Jesus as the Mediator of the New Covenant, from the language of Hebrews. That covenant for Israel was promised as a covenant of heart-transformation; we as Gentiles have been invited to share in the blessings of this New Covenant, established and brought about by Jesus Christ.*

The book of *Hebrews* calls Jesus the “Mediator of the New Covenant.” That means He is the One who brings together the two parties in the covenant—God and Man. But what is this new relationship He brings about? The *New Covenant* means there was an... Here’s a bit of a Bible lesson...

*Old Covenant.* God entered this covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai. (In a way, *Moses* was the mediator of *that* covenant.) But throughout the Old Testament, God previews this coming *New Covenant*: a new kind of relationship God will have with His people—and it has amazing new benefits. Jeremiah 31 says that in this New Covenant, God will “write His law on their hearts” and they will be taught *from within* of God’s ways. So the *forgiveness* of sins He will offer is actually meant to make way for more, for a *transforming* work in their hearts.

In the New Testament Scriptures, we are told the Gentiles are allowed and invited to enter this covenant and receive this transforming power. That’s where we come in. If you are in Christ, He is *your* Mediator into this New Covenant with God. But it’s easy to forget the “transformation part” of our relationship with God. But this is God’s goal in forming this covenant in the first place; forgiveness of sins and the escape of God’s judgment are just the beginning! It’s more like an “occupation treaty” than a peace treaty. God is going to move in and be in charge.

Romans 8:28-30 says God predestined and justified His people “*to be conformed* to the image of His Son”; Ephesians 2:8-10 say believers “saved by grace” are God’s “workmanship, created in Christ Jesus *unto good works.*” Christ’s deliverance from sin and its penalty makes way for the change God wants to work in our hearts. And Jesus brings that change about. He “*completes the work* He begins in us” by the Spirit of God—the supernatural gift and seal of God in the New Covenant.

The New Covenant in Jesus’ blood is a covenant of change, change on the inside. We praise Jesus *our* Mediator for fulfilling all the New Covenant promises *in us*, from start to finish.

(Caleb French)