

One Mediator Between God & Men

1 Timothy 2:1-7 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; **2** For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. **3** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; **4** Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. **5** For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; **6** Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. **7** Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

One often reads the Bible without actually reading what is read. What is meant in saying this here is that one may simply assume that what Paul states has always been the case... Pray for all men? All men to be saved & come to knowledge of the truth? One mediator between God and men? Christ gave himself a ransom for all? Paul being the apostle & teacher of Gentiles; wasn't Peter first?

Genesis opens up... "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." **Genesis 1:1**. One doesn't have to run to the Hebrew (אֱלֹהִים 'ĕlôhîm, el-o-heem') to see the Godhead manifested in the definition of 'God'. Plurality, within the Godhead, is clearly reflected in English within a King James Bible.

Genesis 1:26 And God said, Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of US, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

There are many terms used for describing or naming God in the O.T. In a KJB, the word LORD is largely used as God's name and the LORD is often His own mediator. We see this in such cases as with Adam, Cain, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, the judges and kings.

After the flood & even before the establishment of Israel, we're introduced to the term 'priest' and it's not confined within Abraham's seed (**Gen 14:8; 41:45; Ex 2:16**). An understood function of a priest is actually demonstrated within the family unit of Job, as I've seen strong argument given that he could have lived sometime between Abraham & Moses... "And his sons went and feasted *in their* houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. **5** And it was so, when the days of *their* feasting were gone about, that Job sent and SANCTIFIED THEM, and rose up early in the morning, and OFFERED BURNT OFFERINGS ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THEM ALL: for Job said, IT MAY BE THAT MY SONS HAVE SINNED, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job CONTINUALLY." **Job 1:4-5**

In the establishment of the nation of Israel, several mediating factors were put in place. Israel herself was established as a kingdom priesthood & holy nation (**Ex 19:5-6**), among all nations, and a priesthood was recognized within the nation handling the sin issue that existed between the LORD & the People (**Ex 28:1-3**). Also, prophets became direct spokesmen for God.

To make sense out of the Gospels, early Acts period and foundation being laid for the gospel of Christ (**Mark 1:1-5**), one must understand Israel's yet desired relationship to God as a kingdom priesthood. Israel was to expect a prophet like unto Moses and their Messiah to show up which would bring about

covenant fulfillments (**Lk 1:68-79**). Repentance, as a nation, was a mandate as evidenced in the ministries of John the Baptist & the Twelve Apostles as they baptized Israelites for remission of sins... "And ALL THE PEOPLE that heard *him*, and the PUBLICANS, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. **30** But the PHARISEES and LAWYERS rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him." **Luke 7:29-30**

John 20:22-23 And when he had said this, he breathed on *THEM*, and saith unto them, Receive YE the Holy Ghost: **23** Whose soever sins YE remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* YE retain, they are retained.

Acts 2:36-38 Therefore let ALL THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom YE have crucified, both Lord and Christ. **37** Now when THEY heard *this*, THEY were pricked in THEIR heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall WE do? **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.

Acts 3:19-20 Repent YE therefore, and be converted, that YOUR sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; **20** And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto YOU:

What happened?

One thing I emphasize over & over in my studies, when touching on this subject, is that Israel lost her priesthood status. After rejecting the ministry of John the Baptist and crucifying Christ, she then blasphemes the Holy Ghost (**Acts 7**) sending Israel into a state of blindness in part until the fullness of Gentiles come in (**Rom 11:25**). Jewish converts, under the kingdom gospel, were identified as a kingdom of priests, an holy nation with distinction made from Gentiles (**1Pet 1:1; 2:9-12**)... "But YE *are* a CHOSEN GENERATION, a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, an HOLY NATION, a PECULIAR PEOPLE; that YE should shew forth the praises of him who hath called YOU out of darkness into his marvellous light:" **1 Peter 2:9**

With authority to remit sins, in representing Israel (**Lk 7:29-30; John 20:21-23**), now with John the Baptist & the Apostles out of the way, where did that leave us today?

Here we rely on Paul's gospel & declaration of the grace of God and preaching of Jesus Christ according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the foundation of the world... "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to MY GOSPEL, and the PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY, WHICH WAS KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, **26** But NOW IS MADE MANIFEST, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, MADE KNOWN TO ALL NATIONS FOR THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH:" **Romans 16:25-26**

With the sufferings & glory of Christ veiled to the Apostles till after the crucifixion (**Lk 18:31-34; 24:44-46; 1Pet 1:10:11**), Peter & John stood before an empty tomb... "For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead." **John 20:9**

From a prophetic perspective, Israel was in the crosshairs of prophecy for a redemptive work regarding sin & sins!

Isaiah 53:1-12 Who hath believed OUR report? and to WHOM is the arm of the LORD revealed? **2** For HE shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: HE hath no form nor

comeliness; and when WE shall see HIM, *there is* no beauty that WE should desire HIM. **3** HE is despised and rejected of men; a MAN of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and WE hid as it were *OUR* faces from HIM; HE was despised, and WE esteemed HIM not. **4** Surely HE hath borne *OUR* griefs, and carried *OUR* sorrows: yet WE did esteem HIM stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **5** But HE *was* wounded for *OUR* transgressions, *HE was* bruised for *OUR* iniquities: the chastisement of *OUR* peace *was* upon HM; and with HIS stripes WE are healed. **6** All WE like sheep have gone astray; WE have turned EVERY ONE to HIS OWN way; and the LORD hath laid on HIM the iniquity of US ALL. **7** HE was oppressed, and HE was afflicted, yet HE opened not HIS mouth: HE is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so HE openeth not HIS mouth. **8** HE was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare HIS generation? for HE was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of MY PEOPLE was HE stricken. **9** And HE made HIS grave with the wicked, and with the rich in HIS death; because HE had done no violence, neither *was any* deceit in HIS mouth. **10** Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise HIM; he hath put *HIM* to grief: when thou shalt make HIS soul an offering for sin, HE shall see *HIS* seed, HE shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in HIS hand. **11** He shall see of the travail of HIS soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify MANY; for HE shall bear THEIR iniquities. **12** Therefore will I divide HIM *a portion* with the great, and HE shall divide the spoil with the strong; because HE hath poured out his soul unto death: and HE was numbered with the transgressors; and HE bare the sin of MANY, and made intercession for the TRANSGRESSORS.

It is only through Paul's gospel & writings where we see & understand the entire scope of God's redemptive plan to eventually include Gentiles outside of the mediating factor that Israel once had... "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and* lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity." **1 Timothy 2:6-7**

There is but one mediator between God & men today and it isn't Israel! There are no John the Baptists & Peters running around today baptizing someone for remission of their sins. There is no denomination, regardless of claims of being a Church of Christ, Church of God, Baptist, followers of Wesley, Luther or any other organization that may claim to stand between you & God. No religious sect such as Catholicism, Mormonism or Jehovah Witness stands between men & God. No pope, priest, Mother Mary or sacrament is a stairway to God!

God's means & method for salvation today is clearly presented via Paul's gospel as revealed in Romans 10 and excellently illustrated in the exchange between the Lord Jesus Christ and the thief on the cross... "But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; **9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **11** For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. **12** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." **Romans 10:8-13**

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Luke 23:39-43 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. **40** But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? **41** And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. **42** And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. **43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

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Today, there is but one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus!

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; **24** Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: **25** Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; **26** To declare, *I say*, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.” **Romans 3:23-26**

“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: **2** By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” **Romans 5:1-2**