

## MEDIATORS AND MEDIATION

1. *Mediators are chosen by God:* "Therefore He said that He would destroy them, Had not Moses His chosen one stood in the breach before Him, To turn away His wrath from destroying them" (Psa 106:23).
2. *Mediators may be human or divine:* "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5). "The Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Rom 8:26c).
3. *Mediators must be mature believers with godly character:* So Job, Moses, and Jesus. Mediators must submit implicitly to God and God must trust them implicitly. Such would not be the case with unbelievers, immature believers (babes) and selfish (carnal) believers. They can't represent God because they don't know God.
4. *Mediators speak and act for God and represent the people before God:* "When they have a dispute, it comes to me, and I judge between a man and his neighbor, and make known the statutes of God and His laws" (Exod 18:16). "You be the people's representative before God, and you bring the disputes to God, then teach them the statutes and the laws, and make known to them the way in which they are to walk, and the work they are to do" (Exod 18:19b–20).
5. *Mediation involves intercessory prayer:* "Pardon, I pray, the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Thy lovingkindness, just as Thou also hast forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now. So the LORD said, 'I have pardoned them according to your word'" (Num 14:19–20). "So the people came to Moses and said, 'We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us.' And Moses interceded for the people" (Num 21:7). The Messiah "was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors" (Isa 53:12b). "I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail" (Luke 22:32a). "Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us" (Rom 8:34b).
6. *Mediation involves making peace:* "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." (Matt 5:9). "Peacemakers will be happy because (1) lives, families, jobs, and churches are saved in this life (Exod 32:10–14), and (2) mediation is a good work that will be rewarded in the next life (Matt 5:9). Making peace produces righteousness: "And the seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace" (James 3:18). And peace replaces anger.
7. *Mediation involves face to face interaction:* God reveals his plan to Moses (Exod 32:10) and Moses tries to change his mind (32:11–14). "Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend" (Exod 33:11a). "Since then no prophet has risen in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face" (Deut 34:10).
8. *God may accept the mediation:* "So the LORD changed His mind about the harm which He said He would do to His people" (Exod 32:14). There is no point in choosing a mediator if God always does what he wants. Moses was successful in changing God's mind.
9. *Perhaps what is mediated is God's permissive will:* God's original plan to kill the unfaithful exodus generation may have been best—his perfect will (Exod 32:10). They all died the sin unto death in the wilderness anyway—over a period of forty years (Num 14:32–35). Negotiation is the job of a mediator, but recognize that (1) your solution is in competition with omniscience, and (2) if your mediation is successful, you may personally have to live with God's permissive will. Moses saved their lives, but, in so doing, he had to live in a tent in the wilderness with them for the rest of his life. A good mediator always puts the welfare of his people ahead of his own (Exod 32:10).
10. *Or God may reject the mediation:* "As for you, do not pray for this people, and do not lift up cry or prayer for them, and do not intercede with Me; for I do not hear you" (Jer 7:16). "Therefore do not pray for this people, nor lift up a cry or prayer for them; for I will not listen when they call to Me because of their disaster" (Jer 11:14). "So the LORD said to me, 'Do not pray for the welfare of this people. When they fast, I am not going to listen to their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and grain offering, I am not going to accept them. Rather I am going to make an end of them by the sword, famine and pestilence.'" (Jer 14:11–12).