

# Why Christians Should Keep the Law (Part 50)—The Mediators

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The following text is a message from Corner Fringe Ministries that was presented by Daniel Joseph. The original presentation can be viewed at <https://cornerfringe.com/media/6pxm2hq/part-50-the-mediators>

**\*Portions of this document have been edited from the video message to better present a comprehensive, written document. Special attention was given to preserving the original context, but this document is not verbatim. Scripture verses are in the red text with other quotes in blue. Therefore, it is recommended that this document is printed in color. The Hebrew words are generally accompanied by the transliterate, English word. In most cases, the Hebrew is to be read from right to left.**

Welcome back, everyone, to Episode 50 of our series *Why Christians Should Keep the Law*.

We are currently looking at what the New Covenant is and what the differences are between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. Thus far, we have looked at three significant differences that are dramatically different for us today.

Today, I will discuss a fourth difference. This one has to do with the office of mediatorship. Under the Old Covenant, Moses was the mediator. Ironically enough, the people of Israel elected him. I say that because when Israel came to Mount Sinai to come into covenant, they heard the voice of God. They witnessed lightning ripping through the skies, peels of thunder, and smoke billowing because God descended on the mountain in fire. God spoke to every man, woman, and child, and they were terrified for their lives.

After that experience, they came to Moses and said—<sup>19</sup> "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die" (Exodus 20:19). So, Israel elected Moses as the mediator to go between them and God. They wanted Moses to find out what God wanted, and then they would do it. Well, God gave the nod and said that what they wanted was right, so He confirmed this election. Without God's confirmation, this would not have happened, but this was God's heart. This is what He wanted to begin with, so Israel asking for Moses to mediate was a good thing in the eyes of the Lord.

As mediator, Moses would receive the instructions from the Lord and then teach them to the people. There is an aspect of this mediatorship that we need to appreciate. Moses expressed the heart of the Lord to all of Israel. In addition to teaching them, Moses would judge them. In a sense, judging them was an extension of his mediatorship.

In Matthew 23:2, Jesus said—<sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat" (emphasis added).

The scribes and Pharisees were teaching the people the Law, which was the very thing Moses (*Moshe*) did when he met with the children of Israel after spending time with God and God downloading on him. The scribes and Pharisees brought the Law to the people and also served as judges. This is, if you will, kind of a tandem offshoot of this mediatorship.

When you think of a mediator, you have to think of one delivering the heart of God to the people, but it consisted of more than that. While Moses was up on the mountain receiving the tablets of stone with the Laws, the children of Israel committed a great sin by making a golden calf. God knew this, so God told Moses, who was the mediator of the covenant, to go down to the people as they had sinned against Him by attributing their deliverance out of Egypt to a golden calf.

Exodus 32:9-10—It's at this time that—<sup>9</sup> . . . the LORD said to Moses "I have seen this people, and indeed **it is a stiff-necked people!** <sup>10</sup> "Now therefore, let Me alone, **that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation**" (emphasis added).

The Lord was very displeased with Israel to the point that He wanted to wipe them out and make a great nation out of Moses. God said this multiple times. He said it again in the book of Numbers. This is where you begin to appreciate the office of mediatorship. Moses, the mediator, interceded on behalf of Israel because he had access to direct communication with God. So, Moses responded to the Lord:

Exodus 32:11-12—<sup>11</sup> Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: "LORD, **why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people** whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> "Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, '**He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?**' **Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people**" (emphasis added).

Since Moses was in the position of mediator, he interceded on their behalf. It is so amazing to see that Moses' heart was so humble and so loving. When God said, "**I will make of you a great nation,**" Moses didn't hesitate for a moment. He didn't even think, "I'll accept that. That's a great idea, God. Make me great. I love that. I don't want to deal with these people any more than you do." He didn't do any of that. The heart of Moses was for the people and to preserve the character of God. Moses was incredible. His only concern was the Lord's well-being and what the nations would say about Him. He cared about defending the character of God and about preserving the people of Israel.

In verse 13, Moses went on to tell God to remember His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and what He had promised them. Look at the heart of Moses as he is in the office of mediatorship. So, how did the Lord respond to Moses in this situation where He was ready to unleash His wrath?

Exodus 32:14—<sup>14</sup> **So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people** (emphasis added).

Moses went back up to the mountain because of this great sin. He wanted the people's sin to be forgiven. He made this journey alone to intercede on their behalf. We pick it up in verse 30.

Exodus 32:30-32—<sup>30</sup> Now it came to pass on the next day that Moses said to the people, "**You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.**" <sup>31</sup> Then Moses returned to the LORD and said, "**Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold!** <sup>32</sup> "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--**but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written**" (emphasis added).

As mediator, Moses' heart for the people was to the point that he told God that if you are not going to forgive them, then kill me, too.

I share all this with you, so you can appreciate the office of mediatorship. As we come into the New Covenant, Moses did not remain as the mediator. We have a new Mediator.

1 Timothy 2:5—The Apostle Paul said—<sup>5</sup> **For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus** (emphasis added).

Jesus is now our mediator, and He is superior to Moses. Moses was this prolific phenomenal man of God. God truly picked the right man to intercede on behalf of Israel. I'm not sure anyone else would have had the humility and the love to maintain the cause in the context that we read, but Moses did it. But now we have a mediator greater than Moses. Jesus is superior in every way with even a greater heart and greater accomplishments. He is the one who intercedes for us to the Father.

John 14:6—<sup>6</sup> **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

That is a mediator statement. He said that if you want to get to the Father, you go through me. There are some very dangerous and erroneous teachings that say not to pray or call upon Jesus. They teach that you should bypass Jesus entirely and only call upon and pray to the Father. That's absolutely wrong. Now, certainly, we do pray to the Father, but there is only one way to do that, and that is through Jesus the mediator. He is our access point to the Father. If you try to circumvent Jesus in any way, you will have no access to the Father, period. Jesus sits in the office as mediator for us.

Hebrews 8:6—<sup>6</sup> **But now He (Jesus) has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises** (emphasis added).

Because of Moses' function at Mount Sinai, he became the mediator. God brought the Old Covenant to Israel through Moses. God brought the New Covenant through His only begotten Son Jesus; therefore, Jesus is now the mediator for us.

Stay tuned! We have more coming in this vein as we look at the New Covenant and the differences between the Old and New Covenant. The Lord bless you and keep you.