

A Study on the difference between what a Mediator is, and what an Intercessor is,
Prepared for the Adult Sunday School Class on October 20th, 2013,
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Mediator – The word in the Greek in the New Testament is Mesiths (Mesites) and it means Middle Man. R.L. Dabney says in his Systematic Theology – “This word or phrase does not occur in the Old Testament except in the Septuagint translation of Job 9: 33. (English version: “Days-man”), and then with the sense of umpire, not of mediator.” “Its idea in the New Testament is evidently of one who intervenes to act between parties, who cannot, for some reason, act with each other directly.” “Thus Moses was (Galatians 3: 19) the mediator of the Theocratic covenant.” “But in this, he was no more than internuncius. (Internuncius means a person who acts as a messenger or go between two parties. This term is commonly applied to brokers and dealers who act as an agent of both parties. An internuncius acts as a medium of communication between two contracting parties.) “Christ’s mediation included far more, as He has become our Prophet, Priest, and King.

John Gill says – “A Mediator is of more than one, and has to do with two parties; and these at variance among themselves, between whom he stands as a middle person; his business is to bring them together, and make peace between them; and such an one is Christ: the two parties are God and His elect, who in their natural state are at a distance from God, and at enmity to him, and who have broken his law, and affronted his justice; Christ stands as a middle person, a days-man between them, and lays his hands upon them both; has to do with things pertaining to the glory of God, and makes reconciliation for the sins of the people; brings them that were afar off nigh to God, and makes peace for them by the blood of his cross, by fulfilling the law, and satisfying justice for them; in consequence of this he appears for them in the court of heaven, intercedes and pleads for them, is their advocate, and sees that all covenant blessings, of which he is the Mediator, are applied unto them, and preserves their persons, which are committed to his care and charge, safe to everlasting happiness.”

1st Timothy 2: 5 says – “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3: 19 – “What purpose then does the law serve?” “It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.” “Now a mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one.”

John Gill says again: “in the hand of a mediator; not Christ, as many interpreters, ancient and modern, have thought; for though he was present at the giving of the law, as appears from Acts 7:38 and is the Mediator between God and man, and had the law in his hand, out of which it went forth as the lawgiver; and as the surety of his people has fulfilled it, and by so doing put an end to it, and delivered them from the curse and condemnation of it; yet he is the Mediator of the new and better covenant, not the ministration of death, but of life; and so Moses and Christ, the law and Gospel, the old and the new covenant, are continually opposed to each other; besides, the mediator here seems to be represented as inferior to the angels, and as receiving the law into his hands from them, by whom it was ordained; which to conceive of Christ, is very much to the demeaning and lessening of him. Moses is the mediator here meant, who stood between God and the people of Israel; not to make peace between them, but to show the word of God from him to them, and this at their own request; see Deuteronomy 5:5, and in his hand the

tables of the law were, when he came down from the mount, and was a typical mediator of Christ. So the Jews say of him, that he was a mediator between them and God.”

Deuteronomy 5: 5 says: “I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fires, and you did not go up the mountain.”

But of Christ, it is said in Hebrews 8: 6 – “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.”

Hebrews 9: 15 – “And for this reason He is the Mediator of the New Covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.”

Hebrews 12: 24 – “But you have come.....To Jesus the Mediator of the New Covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.”