

Jn. 8:31-59 (WCF 8:6) "Mediator in All the Ages"

For the Children: Sometimes inventors will let friends have a try of something they're making before it's finished. We once got to play a board game invented by a student before it was ready for the shops. God allowed the saints in the OT to have a taste of what was going to happen when Jesus came into the world. But what He did was so much greater than someone giving a foretaste of their work before it is finished. Christ's work is so powerful, that it is able to reach back in time and save believers in the OT times, as well as believers now and in the future. **Questions:** How do we know that OT believers were saved? How were they saved? What made Jesus' so powerful that He could do this?

Introduction: A "Mediator" is a "go-between"; A "surety" is a guarantor of someone else's behaviour or debt.

First Point: What We Learn about True Believers

- 1) Hearing the Truth: True believers hear and recognize the Truth that is embodied in Christ and which He teaches (vss. 31, 32, 47). This involves a whole-person commitment to the Truth, which is continued (v. 31) and acted upon (v. 51).
- 2) Love of Christ: Those who love the Father will love the Son, who proceeds from Him and is one with Him (vss. 42,54,58).
- 3) Set Free: The believer is set free from Satan, sin and death, by Christ and the Truth (vss. 32,36, 51,52). We still die physically, but do not experience eternal death.
- 4) OT Believers Are Included: Abraham saw Jesus' day and rejoiced in salvation (v. 35, Rom. 4). He did so by faith in the Christ to come, as revealed in God's Word – not earning salvation by his works. The same is true of other OT saints (WCF 8:6; Heb. 1:39-40).

Second Point: What We Learn about Those Who Reject the Lord Jesus

- 1) No Love for the Father, the Son or the Word: Neither God nor His Word have any place in the hearts of the unbelievers. They cannot truly hear the Word (vss. 37,42,44,47).
- 2) Slaves of Satan and Sin: The Jews claimed to be Abraham's children. Spiritually, the apostate Jews were Satan's children and slaves. They took after him in their murderous, lying hearts and rejection of Christ. Had they been Abraham's children spiritually, they would have followed him in faith and deeds (vss. 34,39,42-47). That is why they said Christ was a Samaritan and had a demon, when He told them the truth; promised eternal life to those who believed in Him; and claimed to be the great "I AM" (vss. 52,53,58,59).
- 3) A Strong Warning: The Lord warns that if they remain slaves of sin, no place will remain for them in God's House (v. 35).

Third Point: What We Learn about the Lord Jesus Himself

- 1) Father, Son and Word: Jesus declares that He is the eternal Son of God, with His Father in His House forever (v. 35). He proceeds from the Father and is sent by Him, rather than coming on His own initiative (v. 42). He is sent as the Word-made-flesh, to teach and fulfill the Word (vss. 38,40). The Father glorifies the Son (v. 54). And He is one with the Father as the "Yahweh" ("I AM," v. 58).
- 2) What This Enables Him to Do: As God and man, He can set sinners free from Satan, sin and death. He can also communicate/apply His work to those who lived by faith in Him before He was incarnate. As pre-existent God, He was there before Abraham was born (v.58). Yet Abraham could also look forward to His incarnation. In all this, the Christ remained the same: the infinite, eternal God who transcends time and history, able to save both OT and NT saints.

Conclusion: