

The Numerous Other Roles of Our Blessed Mediator

Scripture tells us in 1 Timothy 2:5, “There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” Yet Christ is God equal in every way with the Father and the Holy Spirit, who are One in the eternal Godhead. How all of this works, however, is not the purpose of this paper. Scripture assigns Jesus certain particular roles in the implementation of the divine program for the preparation of the new heaven and earth as alluded to in Revelation 21. Jesus is Lord and Savior to the redeemed. He is the intercessor who sits at the right hand of God the Father interceding for the redeemed against Satan, who by definition is the accuser. Christ Jesus is also the One who will officiate over the rapture, bringing all the redeemed to heaven. He is also the only one, in heaven or earth or under the earth, qualified to open the seven sealed scrolls, (Revelation 4) which brings forth the tribulation judgments.

But why is He the only one, not the Father, and not the Holy Spirit, of these three persons, all equally God within the triune Godhead, who is qualified to overcome sin and thereby open the scroll, setting in motion and implementing God’s entire end time plan? This may seem ridiculous to natural man and his limited logic and understanding. Yet through careful study of the whole Word of Scripture under the tutelage of the Holy Spirit, it can be seen as the most logical and only way God’s purposes could be achieved. Thus it becomes clear that in order to fulfill these purposes, God had to first become man and He had to do it the “hard” way by actually being born from the womb thereby going through the entire natural process of becoming man. He also had to be spiritually perfect in His manhood, an achievement that only His Godliness could make possible. He is the only such being that ever was or ever will be perfect. That He became both Man and God gave Him the essential qualities for this divine role as mediator between God and man and for all of the other work that must take place as part of God’s end times plan. Because of this, He and only He, understands clearly both sides of all issues. Mediator in the Greek means, a go-between, an intercessor, a reconciler, or internunciator. Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25 claim Christ Jesus as our intercessor. With Satan still having

access to the throne room, he is the accuser of all mankind continually pointing out our sins and seeking the right to our souls. But our Lord and Savior sits on the right hand of God the Father to intercede on our behalf and mediates every case.

To illustrate that His unique quality as God and man makes this possible, as well as necessary, consider an earthly example of judicial mediation. Years past, civil disputes were most frequently brought before a judge and jury to be tried in court. However, in order to establish equitable results, as the quality of juries has degenerated in the ability to reason sensibly, and especially to understand even simple technical issues, attorneys on both sides of disputes have more and more feared the crazy verdicts which often result, such as the jury award of millions of dollars to a woman who spilled hot coffee on her lap at a fast food restaurant. Therefore many disputes never go to court, but instead are settled through a mutually acceptable mediator. For this to be satisfactory to both parties, the mediator must be a trustworthy person of known integrity and fairness. He must also be well versed as well as experienced in both the relevant law and both sides of the issues involved. When these qualities are embodied in the mediator, both parties are generally satisfied that justice will be well served. In heaven, all disputes are about sin. Could anyone be better qualified for this job than Christ Jesus, both God and Man, the one who was made sin so that there could be a way to reconcile the sin issue?

But in order also to be our Savior, it was not enough that our blessed Lord was and is both God and Man. As man He also had to die the most horrible death. Why? The limitations of human reason and vocabulary fall short of providing a fully satisfactory answer to the world. Only through the instruction of the Holy Spirit within the redeemed heart can a satisfactory answer be provided to this and to many other of our Lord's seemingly "illogical" or "foolish" activities. We say He had to die as Scripture tells us in Isaiah 53 in order to obtain forgiveness for our sins, that is, forgiveness for all those who would believe in Him. How could God die? He couldn't. But man could, and it had to be a perfect sinless man, who was also God, or else the effectiveness of that payment could not have been adequate to remove all sins, past, present and future from the souls of all who would believe.

God, from the beginning, ordained a temporary process involving the shedding of the blood of innocent, spotless animals. Only by this and sincere confession of sins could sin be covered. Prior to our Savior's death on the cross, the sins of the faithful and obedient believers had been merely covered through this process. These sacrifices were only symbolic of what Jesus would later provide on the cross. They achieved nothing that could open up heaven to the faithful and obedient. They only provided a temporary ritual through which a covering of their sins would occur in order that saved souls could be separated from the damned and kept on the paradise side of Sheol. This was until Christ Jesus had paid the full price for their sins and could thereby complete their redemption and bring them home to heaven. The plan for effective forgiveness had not yet been implemented and could not happen until our Lord Himself, this God/Man, the essence of perfect unblemished innocence, shed His blood. Scripture tells us that life is through the blood. He gave His blood, and thereby His life that we might have eternal life. However, it was not the beating or the "stripes," or the nails, or the spear, or anything physical or mortal that He suffered or gave up that paid what had to be paid for our sins. Any man could have suffered these things and many martyrs have done so with even greater and prolonged suffering, many times over the centuries. It was with "His stripes, we are healed," according to the King James Version of Isaiah 53:5. However, careful examination of the original Hebrew finds this word to be singular, that is, it was only one stripe or wound that actually paid the price. Therefore, the Holy Spirit here is telling us that the man-inflicted lashes were not what did it. This makes the most sense given the magnitude of Jesus' accomplishment. To pay the price for the sins of that portion of the entire human race who would believe, obviously required infinitely more pain than any mortal men could inflict. It was this single wound, that horrible, though temporary separation from the Father which caused Him to cry out, "My God, My God why have you forsaken me?" He knew why. He knew at Gethsemane. That is why he actually sweat blood as He prayed to the Father. He knew what man was going to do to Him. That would be merely physical torture. But He Himself having to be made sin (2Corinthians 5:21) was a condition totally abhorrent to God. Therefore, He had to be separated from the Godhead. He could not be both God and sin at the same time. That

was the STRIPE of Isaiah 53:5. This was the first and only time in all eternity that there was an actual separation of the inseparable Triune Godhead, where the God/man Christ Jesus was not a whole and equal part of the Trinity. What unspeakable pain, beyond any human imagination, must this have been? It was this loving God of ours who literally ripped Himself apart and inflicted on Himself the ultimate and only pain sufficiently excruciating to, in fact, pay the whole penalty of the sins of all mankind. Only this magnitude of pain, a divine spiritual pain, which was beyond any possible mortal comprehension, was of sufficient awfulness to satisfy God's sense of justice, so that now sin could be removed from all who believe in Him. Thus, He redeemed us; He bought us; He bought us back from Satan's sin-slave auction through this incredible act of love.

The role of our Lord as our mediator is rapidly approaching its end. While no one knows the time or date of the Rapture, the world events of the past 50 years, and at the present time, are one by one precisely fulfilling each of the prophecies which Scripture tells us must come to pass before His second coming. At the time of the Rapture, Christ Jesus will no longer sit on the throne at the right hand of the Father, interceding and mediating for us. This is because as He calls up all of the redeemed to heaven, He will also cast out of heaven our accuser, Satan. The redeemed will no longer be on earth to need His services in that capacity. He will now assume His other roles as so carefully described in Revelation Chapter 4 and elsewhere.

During these past almost nine years since I first realized that Jesus was my Lord and Savior, I accepted that fact, and for the most part concentrated my studies of Scripture almost entirely in that limited context. That alone is incredible, that God so loved the world (you and me included) that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16). But now I have looked at what it cost Him as described above, and also how much more activity, or work in progress, or call it what you will, God has gone through, and will go through in order to achieve His total purpose and complete His plan.

What did creation cost him? Scripture tells us that it was but a thought that He breathed into existence. How much of Scripture does He devote to it? A few chapters in Genesis and a few verses scattered elsewhere within the Book. But look at the space He allotted for His expressions of love and concern for His creation, and how it could be cleansed and redeemed from that fall which resulted from the first sin. The rest of the Book alludes to, describes, explains, and predicts the whole process He chose through which He is dealing with and will deal with the sin problem as He finally restores the world to His liking. And Christ Jesus is the central and foremost performer as evidenced by His various assigned tasks, and the fact that the volume of the Book is written about Him (Hebrews 10:7). Let us summarize some of the unique tasks, which He could accomplish only after having become man as well as God. This brief compilation can hardly be viewed as adequate to express even a tiny portion of our blessed Lord's attributes and commitments to His creation. It would be the height of arrogance and conceit to believe that anyone could do this. Perhaps, however, this will at least present some of the more basic Scriptural revelations in such a way as to stimulate greater thought, love and eagerness to search His precious Word more thoroughly.

1. He taught in the temple, performed many miracles of healing, and demonstrated by His life exactly what perfected man should be. He spoke truths so profound and eternal that they have been remembered and marveled at by all of mankind throughout the ages regardless of whether they be atheist or believers of any religions, Christian or otherwise. His short presence is recognized every day, consciously and unconsciously, through the calendar, which the whole world goes by, counting days and years from the date of His birth.
2. The ultimate demonstration of His love and God's divine plan was performed by His suffering and death on the Cross and subsequent resurrection, showing Himself as again alive for 40 days before His publicly witnessed ascension into heaven. Here He showed Himself as having conquered death, becoming

the “first fruits” of the resurrection and eternal life, available for all who would believe.

3. Having ascended to heaven, He initiated Pentecost, by sending the Comforter that is, the Holy Spirit, to permanently indwell in the hearts of believers. This of course, was a totally new phenomenon unique to the church age, which began at that time and will end with the rapture. It was Jesus’s work here on earth through the Apostles, which resulted in the New Testament. And finally through this, those who want to, can find the answers to all of the questions the Old Testament left unanswered. This was made possible only through His earthly presence as God/man and by His teachings both before and after His resurrection.
4. Through having overcome both spiritual and physical death, He fulfilled the requirements as Savior of all who truly believe in Him through a genuinely repentant faith. The result of this faith of the redeemed, necessitated that He would also become their Lord, because true faith would lead inexorably to Him becoming both Lord as well as Savior, the Lord part exhibited through obedience, love and an associated lifetime of beneficial works accomplished in His name.
5. His blessed work now entered a new phase never before dealt with. He ascended to heaven to sit at the right hand of the Father, there to function as noted above, as our mediator / intercessor in whose Name we pray to the Father both in praise and gratitude as well as to petition for our needs. This is His current role until the Father tells Jesus to go get them, at which time His task will be to descend to the clouds and call all the faithful saints, both living and dead, up to heaven.
6. Once He has brought the raptured saints to heaven, our Lord Christ Jesus initiates the end times activity, which is so clearly detailed in Revelation. His

role as the Suffering Servant and the Lamb of God is over. Another of His blessed names now personifies His work. He is the Lion of Judah. He no longer sits on the throne. John sees Him as reported in Revelation 5 standing, taking the Book from God the Father, the seven sealed Book which no one “in heaven or on earth or under earth” is qualified to open, only this God/Man, Christ Jesus. This Book contains the seven judgments, which are then about to fall on the earth. It is also the book which contains the details on how He will now proceed to deal with the earth, preparing it finally to be His “footstool,” as we are told in Jesus’ own words in Matthew 22:44. “The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, til I make thine enemies thy footstool?” Notice how He has been sitting, until! His opening of this book and its seven seals unleashes the period known as the “time of our Lord” and also as the “great tribulation.”

7. After this our Lord Christ Jesus takes on what seems to be His final role regarding this earth. He will judge the living and the dead and rule the earth, which will have been somewhat restored from the destruction caused by the tribulation. He will then rule the earth from “David’s’ throne” which is His throne as David’s rightful heir, having been as Man, the royal descendant of David, as well as the Godly inheritor prophesied in Psalms 2 and many other places in Scripture.
8. Having completed His seventh and final role as King of the earth, during the millennium period, He is the Architect of the new heaven and new earth of Revelation 21, which will follow the destruction of the present earth at the end of the millennium. There, of course, He will rule forever over both the angels and all of the redeemed saints, which, through faith survived and now take their places in this eternal realm.