

God-The Ultimate Humanitarian

Chapter 7: A Humanitarian by Giving Mediators

We all wear different hats in our life. We are children, adults, parents or grandparents. We are employee, consumer, producer and believer. Sometimes within our job we are accountant, janitor, manager and/or planner.

Even though we perform all these jobs, there is one that we probably are the best at and work the hardest at.

God assigned 3 very special jobs in the Old Testament so that the people could see his love in action and see his hand in their lives: Prophet, Priest and King.

Each of these was a position that God appointed. One did not become a prophet, priest, or king because they wanted to. They had to be anointed, chosen especially for that job.

Each served a special role as a mediator between God and his people.

These godly positions were usually held by different people. A prophet was not a priest, a priest was not a king. However, when Jesus came, he performed all of these positions perfectly on behalf of the people. In this section, we will see how Jesus completed the work of prophet, priest and king on our behalf

❖ What did you learn from chapter 7?

1. When there is a conflict, what does a mediator do?

A mediator works to bring peace between the two sides. They work to bring the two sides together.

2. What was the conflict in the world because of sin?

There was a separation between God and man. Sin had separated us from God. There was a conflict between God and man.

3. Which party is the one that usually calls for mediation?

The one that brings in mediation is usually the weaker person. The person who wants to make things equal again. Labor or union struggles, war,

4. In the conflict between God and man, who sent mediators?

It was God who didn't need to bring a mediator who brought mediators to help with the conflict between God and man. What is the other possible action God could have taken?

5. How does this show God's love?

God didn't have to do this. He was the one that was wronged. Yet, he did it anyway so that we could be saved.

6. Even though this was God's plan to bring his people back to him, how was this system of mediators imperfect?

The mediators did not follow him either. They too sinned and walked away from God.

7. Give a brief definition for each mediator God sent and describe their activities.

➤ Prophet

✦ Jeremiah 1:7. 7 But the Lord said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a child.’ You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you.

Spoke God’s Word to the people. Not the prophet’s own message, he spoke the words from God.

➤ Priest

✦ Hebrews 5:1. Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

Offer sacrifices and represent God and his forgiveness to the people

➤ King

✦ 1 Samuel 8:20 and 9:17. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”..... When Samuel caught sight of Saul, the LORD said to him, “This is the man I spoke to you about; he will govern my people.”

Lead the people and protect them as God’s representative

8. In this case, were these people the ones who would bring the final ending to the conflict? Why or why not? What were these mediators a picture of?

No, they were just representatives, symbols of God in these things. They pictured the true mediator who would bring peace, Jesus the Son of God.

9. The terms "Messiah" (Hebrew) and "Christ" (Greek) both mean "The Anointed One" and both are applied to Jesus. *He was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power* (Acts 10:38). During his time here on earth, how did Jesus show himself to be our prophet, priest and king?

➤ Prophet

✦ Luke 8:1. After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him

✦ Mark 1:38. Jesus replied, “Let us go somewhere else—to the nearby villages—so I can preach there also. That is why I have come.”

He preached God’s word of salvation. He showed the world that he was the promised Messiah, the Savior, sent from God.

➤ Priest

✦ John 17:18-23. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified.

²⁰ “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, ²¹ that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: ²³ I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

✦ Hebrews 10:14. because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

He was the sacrifice that took away the sins of the world. He brought the forgiveness that God promised. He brought the peace that the priests symbolized through those sacrifices.

➤ King

- ✦ Hebrews 2:14. ¹⁴ Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 15:56-57. ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 6:20. ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

He led the people and protects the people from the attacks of sin, death and hell. Through his life and death he brings us to our Lord and gives to us the gifts of faith, forgiveness, life and salvation.

10. Now that Jesus has ascended into heaven, how does he continue to demonstrate himself as our prophet, priest and king?

➤ Prophet

- ✦ Ephesians 4:11-12. It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,
- ✦ Matthew 28:18-20. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

He continues to send us teachers and pastors who lead us in God’s Word.

➤ Priest

- ✦ 1 John 2:1. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

He continues to remind the Father that it was his sacrifice that set us free.

➤ King

- ✦ Ephesians 1:21-23. far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. ²² And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

He rules over all things for the good of his church.

11. Agree or Disagree: We no longer need mediators like God supplied in the Old Testament.

We do not need go-betweens because Jesus made peace with God. He is our eternal and ultimate leader.

12. Read Genesis 14:18-20 and Hebrews 5:7. Contrast the difference between the Aaronic priesthood and the Melchizedek priesthood.

✦ Genesis 14:18-20. ¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹ and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

²⁰ And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

Melech Means king and zedek is righteousness

He was king long before the kings ruled

He is compared with Jesus in that he was a priest and a king

He offered up true prayers and petitions for the people

✦ Hebrews 5:1. Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. ² He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness. ³ This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people. ⁴ No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.

⁵ So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him,

“You are my Son; today I have become your Father.”

⁶ And he says in another place,

“You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷ During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.

This kingship began at Saul, it could only be traced so far.

13. Discuss the significance of Peter's words in 1 Peter 2:9.

✦ 1 Peter 2:9. ⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

We do not need prophets, priests or kings, because now, through faith in Jesus, we are all priests in service to him. Universal priesthood of all believers. Our work is to declare the message of the Savior, the praises of him who saved us.

Assignment: Please read Chapter 8 of *God-The Ultimate Humanitarian*