

## Better Than Bethlehem

- **Job 9:30-33 (KJV)** <sup>30</sup>If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean; <sup>31</sup>Yet shalt thou plunge me in the ditch, and mine own clothes shall abhor me. <sup>32</sup>For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. <sup>33</sup>Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.
- The book of Job is the oldest book in the Bible, because the man Job lived around the time Abraham left Ur of the Chaldees to begin his journey to the Promised Land. Job captures well the feeling of hopelessness that pervaded the Old Testament ...
- **Job 23:3a** Oh that I knew where I might find him!
- **1 Samuel 2:25a** If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: but if a man sin against the LORD, who shall intreat for him?
- It is a fundamental fact of Scripture that God cannot excuse wrong. To do so would violate His holiness, righteousness, truth, justice and purity. The very glory of His throne would be in peril.
- In the Old Testament we see **GOD ABOVE MEN**. The plaintiff and the defendant have no common ground. If only there were an individual who could understand both sides!
- A **DAYSMAN** is needed (“umpire” or “mediator”) but none is available! So, the situation is absolutely hopeless!
- A Daysman ...
  - Must be agreed upon by both sides
  - Must be given power to negotiate for both sides
  - Must be able to identify with both sides (impartial)
- That’s why the Bible said God sent forth **HIS SON**, made **OF A WOMAN** – Jesus Christ was both God and man. Like a bridge, He touched “both banks” – this is the reason for the incarnation!
- **Galatians 4:4-6** <sup>4</sup>But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, <sup>5</sup>To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. <sup>6</sup>And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.
- **1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;
- In Jesus’ day, we see **GOD AMONG MEN**. He is the mediator, the daysman between us and God. This is a “figurative” position, not a “literal” one, like many other word pictures concerning the Godhead (i.e. “God’s right hand”). God gives the truth to us in terms that we can understand – THE JUDGE HAS BECOME OUR MEDIATOR!
- **Psalm 85:10** Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- But, while it was glorious to have the Daysman walk on earth, Jesus Christ was limited while he was in the form of a man. When He said, “Thy sins are forgiven” (as he did to the man let down through the roof in Mark 2 and the woman who anointed his feet in Luke 7), these people were STILL UNDER THE LAW!
- The next time they needed forgiveness, they either had to (1) find Jesus again, or (2) go to the Temple and take a sacrifice. THERE STILL MUST BE SOMETHING BETTER THAN BETHLEHEM!
- Near the end of His ministry, Jesus begins to speak of the “COMFORTER” ...
- **John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
- **John 14:18** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. **(the Holy Ghost is Jesus!)**
- **John 14:26** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
- **John 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:
- **John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is **expedient (not just necessary, but advantageous!)** for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.
- In describing what Jesus said about the Comforter, John uses the Greek word “**PARAKLETOS**” – he is the only NT writer to use this word. It means, “one who is called to one’s aid, one who pleads another’s cause before a judge, defense counsel, an intercessor, a lawyer, an advocate.”

- John uses this word only one time outside his gospel, in his first epistle to the NT church ...
- **1 John 2:1** My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
- Today, we do not have GOD ABOVE MEN as in the Old Testament, or even GOD AMONG MEN as in Bethlehem. Through the power of the Holy Ghost, we now are privileged to have **GOD WITHIN MEN!**
- Jesus is our Daysman and our Mediator in a much greater way today, because He dwells in us – He is always with us!
- **John 14:17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, **and shall be in you.**
- In the Old Testament, the mercy seat was in the Temple. In Jesus' day, His body was the mercy seat. In our day, the mercy seat is within us by His Spirit!
- The incarnation was powerful, but what we have today is BETTER THAN BETHLEHEM! Scholars call the book of Hebrews "the fifth gospel" because it tells what Jesus is doing NOW!
- **Hebrews 7:25** Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.
- The word "better" is used only 15 times in the NT, and 13 of those times are in Hebrews ...
  - Chapters 1 & 2 tell us that Jesus is better than angels and prophets
  - Chapters 3 & 4 tell us that Jesus is better than Moses and Joshua
  - Chapters 5, 6 & 7 tell us that Jesus is better than Aaron and the order of Melchisedek
  - Chapters 8 & 9 tell us that Jesus brought us a better tabernacle and a better testament
  - Chapter 10 tells us that Jesus is a better sacrifice
  - Chapters 11, 12 & 13 tell us that Jesus brought us a better way
- Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). He comes to court as the prosecuting attorney, with his briefcase full of records detailing our sins, faults, failures and shortcomings.
- Job would have had to listen in dejected silence, because he had NO DAYSMAN.
- Those in Jesus' day would have had to find Jesus or go to the Temple. They had a daysman, but NO PARAKLETOS.
- But we have a DEFENSE ATTORNEY who opens His briefcase and pulls out one small document, which when inspected reads ...
- **1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
- **We have an ADVOCATE! When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, there was an INCARNATION of God; but when He is born in us, there is an IMPARTATION of God!**
- General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, led a lawyer to the Lord. The lawyer later penned these words ...
 

He signed the deed with His redeeming blood  
And ever lives to make the payment good  
Should sin or law or hell come in to urge a second claim  
They all retire at once, by mention of His name.
- Dr. Evan O'Neill Kane, a pioneer in the medical profession, was chief surgeon of New York City's Kane Summit Hospital. During his thirty-seven years of experience, Dr. Kane had seen too many deaths and disabilities caused by general anesthesia. So, it was his studied opinion that most major operations could and should be done under the safer, local anesthesia. His only problem was - he couldn't find any volunteers. Until one day, someone finally stepped forward to put his theory to the test. In thirty-seven years, Dr. Evan Kane had conducted nearly four thousand appendectomies, all fairly routine. But this one would be different: the patient would remain awake throughout the entire operation. Before surgery, the patient was prepped and wheeled into the operating room, where a local anesthesia was administered. Dr. Kane began the operation and carefully cut through the surface tissues, clamping off blood vessels en route to the appendix. Locating the organ, the sixty-year-old surgeon adroitly pulled it up and performed the surgery. The operation concluded successfully, with the patient experiencing only minor discomfort. In fact, the patient recovered with such remarkable speed that just two days after his surgery he was released from the hospital. Dr. Kane's test was a brilliant success, and proved that the risks of general anesthesia could be avoided by using local anesthesia instead. This milestone surgery was performed on February 15, 1921. You might want to note this final interesting fact: Dr. Evan O'Neill Kane and the patient who volunteered for the experimental procedure had a great deal in common - they were the same man!
- The doctor became a patient! God became a man provide the cure for sin! And now He lives in us to give us victory over sin!