

# Further up, Further in

## Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

### "A MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN"

For individual study or group discussion

This week we return to our study of *Deuteronomy: Covenantal Clarity*. If you recall from our review thus far, we have learned that the book of Deuteronomy is a generational guidebook for covenantal renewal. Renewal involves remembering God's redemptive story. In a series of three sermons, Moses reminds the second generation of wilderness wanderers of the covenant God made with their fathers as they prepare to enter the Promised Land.

In Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3, we encounter part of Moses' second sermon, in which he reminds the current generation of Israelites of the awesome events that took place at Mt. Sinai. As God delivered the law, he revealed himself to their fathers in the midst of fire, cloud, and darkness (v. 22). In response to the revelation of God's law, the people ask Moses to come between them and God, to shield them as they experience the awesome physical manifestation of God's presence. Since the fall of Adam, humanity continues to need **a mediator between God and man**—a Mediator who will deliver us from the power of sin and death.

**The awe of God's presence leads to the desire for a mediator. (vv. 22-27)**

Moses recounts how God spoke to their fathers, "out of the midst of the fire, the cloud, and the thick darkness, with a loud voice" (v. 22). The Israelites were so consumed with terror, they urged Moses to intercede on their behalf, telling him "If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die" (v. 25).

- What is a mediator? How did Moses act as one in Deuteronomy 5:27?
- How does the law reveal our need for the one, true Mediator, Jesus Christ? (See Job 9:1-4, 32-33, 1 Timothy 2:5-6, and Hebrews 9:15.)
- According to John Calvin, the first use of the law is to serve as a mirror, revealing to mankind their sin and need for a Savior.<sup>1</sup> How does the law convict? (See Romans 3:20; 7:7, 13b) To whom should the knowledge of sin drive us? (See Galatians 2:16)

**God treasures His people's reverence and graciously grants a mediator. (vv. 28-31)**

The Israelites, having their consciences convicted by the law, realize the necessity of a mediator to come between God and them. God commends their words of fear and reverence, approving of the Israelites' desire to receive further instruction from Moses as their mediator.

- What does it mean to fear the Lord (vv. 29, 6:2)? Read Psalm 111:10, 112:1, and Proverbs 10:27. How is it different from being afraid of God?
- What are some evidences that a person is living in the fear of God? (See Job 28:28, Proverbs 1:7 & 9:10.)
- Read Psalm 147. Who are those who hope in God's steadfast love (v.11)?

**The mediator calls God's people to an obedience that leans into the promises of God. (vv. 23-6:3)**

Moses reiterates the terms of the covenant God made with Israel at Mt. Sinai and lays out obligations for the second generation, along with the blessings that will flow from their obedience to his statutes and rules.

- Read Deuteronomy 9:8-16. How long did it take before the Israelites broke the law given to them at Mt. Sinai?
- The grace offered through the intercessory work of Moses at Mt. Sinai was but a foretaste of the grace offered at Mt. Zion, where the new covenant was "enacted on better promises" (Hebrews 8:6). Read Hebrews 8:1-13. What are the "better promises" offered in Christ under the new covenant?
- Read Hebrews 12:18-24 and Isaiah 2:1-5. Discuss the contrasts between Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion.

DATE: April 16, 2023

SPEAKER: Chad/Wil

SERIES: Deuteronomy

PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 5:22-6:3

## Family Dinner Table

### A Better Mediator

Under the old covenant, it was recognized that mediators such as Moses and the priests were insufficient, because they were unable to ultimately deal with the problem of sin (Hebrews 10:4). The sacrificial system was a precursor for the "once for all" sacrifice offered by Christ in the new covenant (Hebrews 10:1-10).

In his biography of Moses, author and pastor Bernard Woudenberg explains that Moses knew his role as mediator would some day be superseded by a better Mediator: "*Moses was a unique figure in the history of the church. Never again would there be a mere human prophet who would know the Lord so intimately, face to face (Exodus 33:11). His life in so many respects was a visible demonstration of the grace of God and of the gospel. He was a mediator through whom Israel... stood before the greatness of the living God. Henceforth, they could only look forward to the day of which Moses spoke when he said to them, 'The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken' (Deut. 18:15). He would be the fulfillment of that of which Moses was only the type.*"<sup>2</sup>

- Discuss how Jesus is a better mediator than Moses and the Levitical priests (Hebrews 7:22-28).

### PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

Tennessee Valley Presbytery,  
denominational partner ministry

### PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Janet and Peter, supported  
missionary partners

<sup>1</sup> Calvin, John. *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, II.vii.6-12

<sup>2</sup> Woudenberg, Bernard. *Moses: Typical Mediator of the Old Covenant*. 2021, Jenison, MI. Reformed Free Publishing Assoc. 136