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Mediator of the New Covenant

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 19, 2017**

Hebrews 12:14-15, 18-29

Introduction: Here begins the **fifth** and last of a series of grand exhortations in this epistle, all of them having a single purpose, which was to **check** the threatened **Defection of Christians BACK to Judaism**. The author achieved a marvelous urgency in his words and argument. The great exhortations exhibit his purpose in writing; and of all the considerations called forth from their history and from their scriptures had only one design, namely, to keep them **IN the holy faith**. The success of the inspired author is evident in the fact that for nearly two thousand years it has been practically **impossible** for Christians to be **proselyted to Judaism**; and yet that was the big problem confronted by the author of Hebrews. True, his readers had grown up in Judaism, or at least were of Jewish background and sentiments; but the judgment of history can only confirm the success of Hebrews in achieving its purpose.
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html>)

Hebrews 12:14, Follow (pursue) peace with ALL men, and holiness, without which no man shall SEE the Lord (the supreme [highest] in authority)...

See defined 3700, **GAZE** (i.e. with wide-open eyes, as at something remarkable).

Matthew 5:8, Blessed are the **PURE in heart**: for they shall **SEE God (the supreme [highest] Divinity)**.

Revelation 22:3-4, And there shall be no more curse: but the **throne of God** and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall **SEE his face...**

NOTE: ...see his face,.... The face of **God**, so as he is NOT to be seen NOW; they shall see him as he is; NOT only the angels, who always behold the face of God, but **all the saints, risen and changed**, being PURE in heart, and perfectly HOLY; they shall SEE him face to face, they shall have **intimate** and **familiar communion** with him... (Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/geb/revelation-22.html>)

Hebrews 12:15, Looking **diligently** lest any man **fail (fall short)** of the **GRACE** of God; lest any **ROOT of bitterness (acridity (especially poison))**, springing up trouble (afflict; to grieve; to distress) you, and thereby **MANY** be **defiled (contaminate)...**

NOTE: ... any man that falleth short of the grace of God; ...This verse emphasizes that God's grace which has appeared to all people (Titus 2:12) and **brought salvation to the world**, may yet be ineffective in SOME because of their failure to abide (dwell [LIVE]) by the conditions upon which salvation is offered. It should be noted that it was NOT merely the FAITH of those which the author questioned, but their conduct.

Hebrews 3:12-14, Take heed, brethren, lest there be IN any of you an **evil heart** of **UNBELIEF**, in departing FROM the **living God**. But exhort one another daily, while it is called **To day**; lest any of you be **HARDENED** through the deceitfulness of SIN. For we are made partakers of Christ, **IF** we hold the **BEGINNING** of our **CONFIDENCE stedfast** (CONSTANT, resolute [steady]) unto the END...

Root of bitterness is reference to an **evil MAN**, as Macknight said, "A root of bitterness is a PERSON, utterly corrupted, and who by his ERRORS and VICES **corrupts others**." ...The analogy between a man and a root, as required by this metaphor, is interesting. Christ himself was called a ROOT (Revelation 22:16), though, of course, NOT a bitter root. He is called the "**ROOT and offspring of David**," the unique Saviour of mankind, and in the same verse, "the bright and morning star."

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html>)

Hebrews 12:16-17, *Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat SOLD his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was REJECTED: for he found NO place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.*

NOTE: Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau... Fornicator (Heb. 13:4; 1 Cor. 10:8). Fornication is nearly akin to gluttony, Esau's sin. He profanely (with irreverence to sacred things) **CAST AWAY his spiritual privilege** for the **gratification** of his **palate** (taste; liking). Genesis 25:34 graphically portrays his reckless, self-indulgent levity (disposition [frame of mind] to trifle [act or talk without seriousness, gravity, weight or dignity]). An example well fitted to strike horror into those Hebrews, whosoever, like Esau, were only SONS of Isaac according to the FLESH (Bengel).

For one morsel. The smallness of the inducement aggravates the guilt of casting away eternity for a trifle (thing of very little value), so far is it from being a claim or mercy (Gen. 3:6). (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/hebrews-12.html>)

NOTE: For ye know how that afterward ...When he would - wished to have. 'He that will NOT when he may, when he will, shall have nay' (Proverbs 1:24-30; Luke 13:28; Luke 13:34-35; Luke 19:42; Luke 19:44).

He was rejected ... 'as reprobate' - NOT as to EVERY blessing; only that which would have followed the primogeniture (state of being born first of the same parents).

He found no place of repentance. The cause put for the effect, "**repentance**" for the object which Esau aimed at-namely, the **change of his father's bestowal** of the chief BLESSING on Jacob. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/hebrews-12.html>)

Hebrews 12:18-21, *For ye are NOT come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest (storm), And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should NOT be spoken to them any more: (For they could NOT endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: And so terrible (dreadful) was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)*

Exodus 20:18-20, And all the people **SAW** the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people **SAW** it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, **Fear** not: for God is come to

PROVE you, and that his **FEAR (reverence)** may be before your faces, that ye **SIN NOT**.

Prove defined 5254, to attempt [to render SUBMISSIVE [HUMBLE]; to reduce to MILDNESS or OBEDIENCE; to tame; as, to subdue a STUBBORN child].

Fear defined 3374, moral reverence (profound (DEEP down) RESPECT and esteem (high value) mingled with FEAR and affection (LOVE), as FOR a holy being or place; the disposition (inclination; frame of MIND) to revere.

RESPECT, **1.** consideration (APPRECIATION; gratitude) **2.** HONOR.
Deference (SUBMISSION)

The FEAR acceptable to God, is a FILIAL [child in relation to his parents] FEAR, an AWFUL reverence of the divine nature, proceeding from a JUST esteem [high value] of his PERFECTIONS [infinite power, holiness, justice, benevolence and wisdom], which produces IN us an inclination (LEANING of the MIND or WILL) TO his service and an UNWILLINGNESS to offend him.

AWFUL, inspiring awe (DREAD, **1.** Great fear, or apprehension of evil or danger. It expresses more than FEAR, and less than terror or fright. It is an uneasiness or ALARM excited by expected PAIN, LOSS or other evil. We speak of the *dread* of evil; the *dread* of suffering; the *dread of the divine displeasure*. It differs from terror also in being less sudden or more continued.
2. AWE; FEAR united with RESPECT.)

Thought 1. Moses said, God's purpose for showing up in the manner he did was to produce "reverence" for himself in the MINDS of the people so they would NOT sin. Reverence" for God is where his wisdom begins.

Psalms 111:10, The **fear** of the Lord (Yahweh) is the **beginning** of wisdom: a **good understanding** (of HIS fear) have ALL they that DO his commandment...

Proverbs 14:2, He that walketh in his uprightness **feareth (reverence)** the Lord: but he that is **perverse (to turn aside)** in his ways **DESPISETH** him.

Despiseth defined 959, to disesteem (to slight [to neglect: **1.** to omit by carelessness or design {a scheme or plan in the mind} **2.** to forbear {stop, PAUSE, refuse} to treat with attention or RESPECT).

Hebrews 12:22-23, But **YE** are come unto **mount Sion**, and unto the **city of the living God**, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of **angels**, To the general assembly and **church of the FIRSTBORN**...

Thought 1. Jesus (Yashua) was the first human to be BORN AGAIN from spiritual death!

Colossians 1:16-18, For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the **FIRSTBORN** from the dead; that in ALL things he (*Jesus*) might have the **preeminence (to be first)**.

Firstborn defined 4416, firstbegotten.

Firstborn, first brought forth; first in the order of nativity (birth).

NOTE: Revelation of Christ to the Church and the **NEW creation**, as the originator of BOTH. **he**--emphatical. Not angels in opposition to the false teachers' doctrine concerning angel-worship, and the power of Oeons or (imaginary) spirit emanations from God (Colossians 2:10, Colossians 2:18) head of the body, the church - The Church is his body by virtue of His entering into communion corporeally with human nature [NEANDER], (Ephesians 1:22). The same One who is the Head of all things and beings by creation, is also,

by virtue of being "the FIRST-BORN from the dead," and so "the **first-fruits**" of the **NEW CREATION among men**, the **Head of the Church**.
...He is NOT called the FIRST that ROSE, but 'the FIRST-BEGOTTEN out of the DEAD,' **RISING with a NEW BIRTH** into **LIFE** (Rom. 6:9; Acts 26:23...
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/colossians-1.html>)

Acts 13:30-33, But **God raised** him from the **DEAD**: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the **promise** which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that **HE** hath **raised up** Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art **my Son**, **THIS day** have I **BEGOTTEN** thee.

Begotten defined 1080, to procreate (properly, of the father, figuratively, to regenerate (the act of producing anew [over AGAIN]; revive).

Hebrews 12:23 ... which are **WRITTEN** in **HEAVEN**...

NOTE: The BOOK OF LIFE In the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City, the tourist may see a **golden book**, encrusted with precious stones and handsomely engraved, where certain names are inscribed. The book was a gift from a wealthy family and is an excellent example of beautiful and extravagantly expensive books to be seen all over the world; but how far beyond all **earthly books** is the **Lamb's book of Life**. O to be written there! One of the consolations of scripture is in this very thing, that the names of Christians are indeed written there in the **book of LIFE**, there where God has inscribed it and where none but **HE** may **blot it out**. Jesus confirmed that our names "**are written in heaven**" (Luke 10:20).

A study of the various references to the book of life reveals the following: **(1)** Christians' names are written in it; **(2)** the ancient faithful, such as Moses, are therein; **(3)** those whose names are NOT inscribed in it shall NOT be saved (Revelation 13:8; 20:15; 21:27); **(4)** even though inscribed there, a name CAN be **blotted out**, and for sufficient cause **WILL be blotted out** (Revelation 3:5).

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html>)

Exodus 32:31-33, And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin; and if NOT, **blot (erase)** me, I pray thee, out of **thy book** which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, **him** will **I blot OUT of my book**.

Revelation 3:4-5, Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will **NOT blot out (smear out)** his **name out of the book of LIFE**...

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was NOT found written IN the **book of life** was CAST into the **lake of FIRE**.

Hebrews 12:23 ...and to **God the Judge** of all, and to the **spirits** of just men made **perfect** (**complete** [having no deficiency]),

NOTE: And to the spirits of just men made perfect. Not only to the more eminent (exalted) saints-- the "church of the firstborn"-- but to all who were made perfect in heaven. They were NOT only united with the imperfect Christians on earth, but with those who have become **completely delivered from sin**, and admitted to the world of glory.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/hebrews-12.html>)

Colossians 2:9-10, For **IN him** dwelleth **ALL** the **fullness (perfection)** of the Godhead (divine nature) **bodily** (united with a body). And YE are **COMPLETE** (having NO deficiency) **IN him**, which is the **HEAD** of all principality and power...

Hebrews 12:24, And to **Jesus** (Yahshua) the **MEDIATOR** of the **new COVENANT**, and to the **blood** of sprinkling, that **speaketh** better things than that of Abel.

Mediator defined 3316, a **go-between** (intermediate agent; a procurer [one who obtains]), **i.e. (by implication) a reconciler (intercessor)**.

Covenant defined 1242, (**specially**) a **contract** (the agreement of two or more persons, upon a sufficient consideration or cause, to do, or to abstain from doing, some act) (**especially a devisory WILL** [testament; the disposition of a mans estate, to take effect AFTER his DEATH]).

NOTE: This is none of the least of many encouragements there are to perseverance in the gospel state, since it is a state of communion with Christ the Mediator of the **new covenant**, and of communication of **his blood**, that speaketh **BETTER THINGS** than the blood of Abel. [1.] The gospel covenant is the new covenant, distinct from the covenant of works; and it is now under a new dispensation, distinct from that of the Old Testament. [2.] **Christ is the Mediator of this New Covenant**; he is the middle person that goes **BETWEEN** both parties, God and man, to bring them together in this **covenant**, to **keep them together** notwithstanding the sins of the people and God's displeasure against them for sin, to offer up our prayers to God, and to bring down the favours of God to us, to **plead with God** for US and to **plead with us** for GOD, and at length to bring God and his people together in heaven,
(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/mhm/hebrews-12.html>)

Hebrews 12:25, See that **ye refuse NOT him that speaketh**. For if they **escaped NOT** who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall **NOT** we escape, if we **turn away** from **him that speaketh from heaven...**

NOTE: This is a recapitulation of the argument in Heb. 10:28-30, to the effect that, if God punished the disobedient of the old dispensation, the **punishment** of the **disobedient under the new dispensation** is even **more certain**, this being due to the greater dignity of the **mediator**, Christ being superior to Moses, etc. In this verse, the emphasis is upon the contrasting citadels of the authority of Moses and that of Christ, Moses speaking from earth, Christ from heaven.

(Source: <https://www.studyight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html>)

Hebrews 10:28-29, He that **despised** Moses' law **DIED** **without mercy** under TWO or THREE witnesses: Of how much sorer **punishment**, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the **BLOOD of the COVENANT**, wherewith he **was sanctified**, an unholy thing, and hath done **despite (insult)** unto the Spirit of grace?

1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the **latter times** SOME shall depart from **the FAITH**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...

Thought 1. What these scriptures, and others about this topic, are saying is we're saved as long as we KEEP the faith. So "**Once saved, always saved**" is NOT true. That's why Hebrews 10:35 says: "**Cast NOT away** therefore your **confidence...**"

Hebrews 12:26-27, Whose **voice** then **shook the earth**: but now he hath **promised**, saying, Yet once more I shake **NOT** the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, **signifieth (make plain)** the **removing** of those **things that are**

shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may REMAIN.

NOTE: As in the case of the author's seizing upon a verse of scripture never before particularly noted and making it the basis of the entire elaboration upon the subject of Melchizedek (Heb. 7:11ff; Ps 110:4), the very same thing is done in this place, where he refers to the **earthquake** at Sinai, and then to Haggai's prophecy of another such disturbance (Hag.2:6), making the latter a **prophecy** of the **END of the world**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html>)

Haggai 2:6, For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land...

Zechariah 14:1-5, Behold, the **day** of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the **mount of Olives**, which is before **Jerusalem** on the **east**, and the **mount of Olives** shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the EAST and toward the WEST, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the NORTH, and half of it toward the SOUTH. And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, **ye shall flee**, like as **ye fled** from before the **earthquake** in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and ALL the **saints** with thee.

NOTE: The end of the world and its replacement with **new heavens** and a **new earth** do NOT appear to be merely a peripheral concept but a central doctrine of Christianity. The doctrine of the end of the world was bluntly stated in the great commission itself, as enunciated by Jesus, who promised to be with his disciples, "even unto the **end** of the **world**" (Matthew 28:20). Peter spoke at length on the subject, saying, "The earth and the works that are therein shall be **burned up**" (2 Peter 3:10) and giving extensive attention to the doctrine of the last things and the **fiery judgment** of God that shall terminate them in the total **dissolution** (melting) of the material world.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html>)

2 Peter 3:10-12, But the **day** of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the **elements** shall **MELT** with **fervent heat**, the EARTH also and the WORKS that are therein shall be **burned up**. Seeing then that **all these things** shall be **dissolved**, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the **heavens** being **on fire** shall be **dissolved**, and the **elements** shall **melt** with fervent HEAT?

Hebrews 12:28-29, Wherefore we receiving a **kingdom** which cannot be moved, let us have **GRACE**, whereby we may **serve God** acceptably with **reverence** and **godly FEAR**: For our God is a **consuming** (burning; destroying) **FIRE**.

NOTE: The nature and extent of the **kingdom of Christ** are manifested in the entire sweep of Christianity through the ages of probation, "throughout all ages, world without end" (Ephesians 3:23). It is a **spiritual kingdom**, "NOT of this world," yet IN it. Christ is the **only head** of **this kingdom**, either in heaven or upon the earth (Matt. 28:18-20); nor is his kingdom ever to be thought of as giving place to another. Even the "**everlasting kingdom**" (2 Pet. 1:11) is in no sense another kingdom, but only an extension and fruition of the **present kingdom**, at which time Christ will "**deliver up**" the kingdom to **God** (1 Cor.15:24).
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html>)