



Mediation

Hebrew Bible

1 Kings 3: 16-28

¹⁶ After this, there came to the king two women who were prostitutes. After presenting themselves to him, ¹⁷ one of the women said, "My lord, I and this woman live in the same house; and when she was in the house, I gave birth to a baby. ¹⁸ Three days after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were there together; there was no one else with us in the house except the two of us. ¹⁹ During the night this woman's child died, because she rolled over on top of it. ²⁰ So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from next to me, while your servant was sleeping, and put it in her arms; and she laid her dead child in my arms. ²¹ When I awoke in the morning to feed my child from my breast, there it was, dead. But when I took a closer look later in the morning, why, it wasn't my son at all — not the one I gave birth to!" ²² The other woman broke in, "No! The living one is my son, and the dead one is your son!" The first one said, "No! The dead one is your son and the living one is my son!" This is how they spoke in the presence of the king. ²³ Then the king said, "This woman says, 'The living one is my son; your son is the dead one'; while the other says, 'No, the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son.'" ²⁴ Bring me a sword," said the king. They brought a sword to the king. ²⁵ The king said, "Cut the living child in two; give half to the one and half to the other." ²⁶ At this, the woman to whom the living child belonged addressed the king, because she felt so strongly toward her son: "Oh, my lord, give her the living child; you mustn't kill it!" But the other one said, "It will be neither yours nor mine. Divide it up!" ²⁷ Then the king answered, "Give the living child to the first woman, don't kill it, because she is its mother." ²⁸ All Isra'el heard of the decision the king had made and held the king in awe, for they saw that God's wisdom was in him, enabling him to render justice properly.

English Translation: Complete Jewish Bible

טז אַז תבאנה, שְׁתִּים נָשִׁים זָנוֹת--אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ; וּתְעַמְדָּנָה, לְפָנָיו. יז וּתְאָמֵר הָאִשָּׁה הָאֶחָת, בִּי אֲדֹנָי, אֲנִי וְהָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת, יָשְׁבֹת בְּבַיִת אֶחָד; וְאֵלֶּד עִמָּה, בְּבַיִת. יח וַיְהִי בַיּוֹם הַשְּׁלִישִׁי, לְלִדְתִּי, וּתְלֵד, גַּם-הָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת; וְאֶנְחֵנוּ יַחְדָּו, אִין-זָר אֲתָנוּ בְּבַיִת, זוּלָתִי שְׁתִּים-אֶנְחֵנוּ, בְּבַיִת. יט וַיָּמָת בֶּן-הָאִשָּׁה הַזֹּאת, לְיֵלֶה, אֲשֶׁר שָׁכְבָה, עָלָיו. כ וּתְקַם בְּתוֹךְ הַיֵּלֶה וּתְקַח אֶת-בְּנִי מֵאֲצְלִי, וְאֲמַתְךָ יִשְׁנֶה, וּתְשָׁפִיבֵהוּ, בְּחִיקָה; וְאֶת-בְּנֵה הַמֵּת, הַשְּׁפִיבָה בְּחִיקָי. כא וְאֲקַם בְּבִקְרָ לְהִינִיק אֶת-בְּנִי, וְהִנֵּה-מֵת; וְאֲתַבּוֹנֵן אֵלָיו בְּבִקְרָ, וְהִנֵּה לֹא-הִיָּה בְּנִי אֲשֶׁר יִלְדְתִי. כב וּתְאָמֵר הָאִשָּׁה הָאֶחָת לֹא כִי, בְּנִי הֵסִי וּבְנֵךְ הַמֵּת, וְזֹאת אֲמַרְתָּ לֹא כִי, בְּנֵךְ הַמֵּת וּבְנִי הֵסִי; וּתְדַבְּרָנָה, לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ. כג וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ--זֹאת אֲמַרְתָּ, זֶה-בְּנִי הֵסִי וּבְנֵךְ הַמֵּת; וְזֹאת אֲמַרְתָּ לֹא כִי, בְּנֵךְ הַמֵּת וּבְנִי הֵסִי. {פ} כד וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, קַחוּ לִי-חֶרֶב; וַיָּבִאוּ הַחֶרֶב, לְפָנָי הַמֶּלֶךְ. כה וַיֹּאמֶר הַמֶּלֶךְ, גִּזְרוּ אֶת-הַיֵּלֶד הֵסִי לְשָׁנַיִם; וּתְנֹו אֶת-הַחֶצִי לְאֶחָת, וְאֶת-הַחֶצִי לְאֶחָת. כו וּתְאָמֵר הָאִשָּׁה אֲשֶׁר-בְּנֵה הֵסִי אֶל-הַמֶּלֶךְ, כִּי-נִכְמְרוּ רַחֲמֶיהָ עַל-בְּנֵהָ, וּתְאָמֵר בִּי אֲדֹנָי תְּנֹו-לָהּ אֶת-הַיֵּלֶד הֵסִי, וְהַמֵּת אֶל-תְּמִיתָהוּ; וְזֹאת אֲמַרְתָּ, גַּם-לִי גַם-לָךְ לֹא יִהְיֶה--גִּזְרוּ. כז וַיַּעַן הַמֶּלֶךְ וַיֹּאמֶר, תְּנֹו-לָהּ אֶת-הַיֵּלֶד הֵסִי, וְהַמֵּת, לֹא תְּמִיתָהוּ: הִיא, אִמּוֹ. {ס} כח וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ כָל-יִשְׂרָאֵל, אֶת-הַמִּשְׁפָּט אֲשֶׁר שָׁפַט הַמֶּלֶךְ, וַיִּרְאוּ, מִפְּנֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ: כִּי רָאוּ, כִּי-תְּכַמֵּת אֱלֹהִים בְּקִרְבּוֹ לַעֲשׂוֹת מִשְׁפָּט. {ס}



Mediation

New Testament

Matthew 18:15-17

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. (New International Version)

English Translation: NRSV

¹⁵ Ἐὰν δὲ ἀμαρτήσῃ [εἰς σέ] ὁ ἀδελφός σου, ὕπαγε ἔλεγξον αὐτὸν μεταξύ σοῦ καὶ αὐτοῦ μόνου. ἐὰν σου ἀκούσῃ, ἐκέρδησας τὸν ἀδελφόν σου: ¹⁶ ἐὰν δὲ μὴ ἀκούσῃ, παράλαβε μετὰ σοῦ ἓτι ἓνα ἢ δύο, ἵνα ἐπὶ στόματος δύο μαρτύρων ἢ τριῶν σταθῇ πᾶν ῥῆμα: ¹⁷ ἐὰν δὲ παρακούσῃ αὐτῶν, εἰπέ τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ: ἐὰν δὲ καὶ τῆς ἐκκλησίας παρακούσῃ, ἔστω σοι ὡσπερ ὁ ἐθνικός καὶ ὁ τελώνης. ¹



Mediation

Quran

The family of Imran 3:102-104

102 You who believe, be mindful of God, as is His due, and make sure you devote yourselves to Him, to your dying moment. 103 Hold fast to God's rope all together; do not split into factions. Remember God's favour to you: you were enemies and then He brought your hearts together and you became brothers by His grace; you were about to fall into a pit of Fire and He saved you from it— in this way God makes His revelations clear to you so that you may be rightly guided. 104 Be a community that calls for what is good, urges what is right, and forbids what is wrong: those who do this are the successful ones.

English Translation: Abdul Haleem

يٰۤاَيُّهَا الَّذِيْنَ ءَامَنُوْا اتَّقُوا اللّٰهَ حَقَّ تُقَاتِهٖۙ وَلَا تَمُوْنُوْا اِلَّا وَاَنْتُمْ
مُّسْلِمُوْنَ ﴿١٠٢﴾ وَاَعْتَصِمُوْا بِحَبْلِ اللّٰهِ جَمِيْعًا وَلَا تَفَرَّقُوْا
وَاذْكُرُوْا نِعْمَتَ اللّٰهِ عَلَيْكُمْ اِذْ كُنْتُمْ اَعْدَاءًۙ فَاَلْفَ بَيْنَ قُلُوْبِكُمْ
فَاَصْبَحْتُمْ بِنِعْمَتِهٖۙ اِخْوَانًا وَاَنْتُمْ عَلٰى شَفَا حُفْرَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ
فَاَنْقَذَكُمْ مِّنْهَاۗ كَذٰلِكَ يُبَيِّنُ اللّٰهُ لَكُمْ ءَايٰتِهٖۙ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَهْتَدُوْنَ
﴿١٠٣﴾ وَلْتَكُنْ مِّنْكُمْ اُمَّةٌ يَّدْعُوْنَ اِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُوْنَ بِالْمَعْرُوْفِ
وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِۗ وَاُولٰٓئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُوْنَ ﴿١٠٤﴾

* 'God draws such comparisons for people' could also be translated as 'God puts forth such examples for people'