

Remnant Life Church
Sunday, April 21, 2013

“Your Money?”

Part 2

“The Tithe – Who’s Idea Was It?”

Genesis 14:18-24

- Just the word itself strikes fear in the heart of the average church-goer
 1. Contrary to popular belief the tithe was not created at some ecumenical council in order to make the church and its leaders rich
 2. The concept and purpose of tithing is from God
- The word means a tenth; to give a tenth of what you have
- Giving back to God –
 1. First – at the heart of tithing, the giving back to God, is all that we have from the breath in our lungs to sight, our ability to think and reason, our possessions to life itself, is given by God.
 2. It all belongs to Him
 - Psalm 50:10-12; John 3:27; I Cor.4:7
 3. Cain and Abel bring an offering to the Lord - Genesis 4:3-4
 - Prior to this there is no mention of offerings to the Lord from either Adam or Eve
 - They certainly had taught their children the Sabbath
 - This was a thank offering to God for His provision to them but Abel brought a sin offering as well
 4. Moses gives the people the *offering for atonement* guidelines beginning in Lev. 1

- **The Beginning of the Tithe**
- The tenth or tithe was first spoken in Genesis 14:20
 1. Abraham and Lot background
 - Gen 13 – Abram and Lot separate
 - Lot lives near Sodom then moves into the city
 - Gen 14 – the first recorded war
 - Lot is captured as a leader of the city (sitting in the gates – Gen 19)
 2. Abraham had to go and rescue his nephew Lot after he was captured
 3. Successful, Abraham encounters Melchizedek on the return journey

- King of Salem
 - Priest of God Most High
4. Melchizedek blesses Abram and Abram tithes a tenth of what he has to the king

● **Melchizedek**

- Chizedek – righteousness
 - Salem – “possession of peace” (perhaps an ancient name for Jerusalem which means “city of peace”)
2. He is mentioned in only 3 places in the Bible
- Genesis (1); Psalm (1); Hebrew (9)

● **Three important elements in understanding who he was:**

1. A forerunner or type of Jesus in the priestly consideration
 - Jesus is called the Great High Priest (**Heb. 4:14**)
 - Melchizedek is a priest demonstrating the type and royalty of Jesus
 - God continued to show who was going to come and save the world from sin (first in **Gen. 3:15** – “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*”)
 - A fatal wound (Jesus victorious over death/satan) versus a painful wound (crucifixion)
2. Brings Abram bread and wine (**Gen. 14:18**)
 - A type or forerunner of the last supper that Jesus held with His disciples
3. Abram wants to take nothing from the king
 - Abraham honors the king by refusing his gift (**Gen. 14:22-23**)
 - His dependence is not on a man but on God

● **What is the importance of the tithe to the church?**

- How did the nation end up in Egypt?
- The 12 tribes of Israel are assigned land to call their own after entering Canaan at the conclusion of the exodus journey – (**Joshua 13-20**)
- The Levites were assigned the work of the tabernacle as priests
 1. Levi was the son of Jacob (Israel)

2. Moses and Aaron (the first priest in the exodus) were the great-grandsons of Levi
- The Levitical tribe are the priests and are assigned cities to live in but not land of their own – not including pastureland for sacrificial animals (**Joshua 21**)
 - Because of this they were dependent on the people (**Num.18:20-21**)
 1. *The LORD said to Aaron, "You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites. "I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving at the tent of meeting."*
 2. To cover the expense of worship
 3. Support the priests and provide for them to live
 - The Priests also needed to tithe (**Num. 18:26**)
 1. *"Speak to the Levites and say to them: 'When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD's offering.'"*
 2. This was done so that they were not removed from God's law and to be an example to the people
 - The church today is the tabernacle of the Old Testament and the pastor is the priest
 1. We are called by God to tithe today
 - As an act of worship thanking God for all He has given us
 - As an act of demonstrated obedience to His Word
 - To invest of ourselves in the work of the church
 2. The culture and the laws of the land may be different than they were in OT times but the Word of God does not change
 - What about the New Testament?
 1. The principles of the OT still applied but Jesus came to say that the gift was not the most important thing rather the heart of the giver
 2. Jesus said, *"Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone. (**Luke 11:42**)"*
 3. Paul writes of the privilege of giving in **2 Cor. 8**
 - But you say the tenth of the OT is obsolete...
 1. **Luke 6:29** - *...If someone demands your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them.*
 - 50%

2. **Matt. 5:41** - *If someone wants you to go one mile, go with them two miles.*
 - 200%
3. You say you want to go back to the OT?
4. It is important to remember that the tithe, the giving back to God in worship and obedience, is not for the church or the pastor – it is for you!