**Genesis 14:18-20**

**“Honoring God with your Tithe”**

**Introduction**

In Gen 14:1-12 We discover the truly 1st world war. It Talks about how 4 Kingdoms united together to attack the other 5 Kingdoms of the World.

One of those Kingdoms was the valley of Sodom and Gomorrah. (Yes these Kingdoms will come up again). But Abraham’s nephew (like his own son), who was living there, was taken captive.

**When Abraham heard about this:**

**Gen 14:14-16**

14 Now when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen (318) trained servants who were born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.15 He divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.16 So he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people.

* It truly was a miracle of God, for such a victory.
* Now Abraham has in his possession, basically most of the wealth of the whole world.
* The unwritten law of the day was: That you would give up the people and there families, but all the wealth and servant where yours.

As Abraham is now heading back to the valley of Sodom and Gomorrah, before meeting with the Kings of Sodom:

**Gen 14:18-20**

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

19 And he blessed him and said:

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,

Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High,

Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

And he gave him a tithe of all.

2 completely different Kings would come out to meet Abraham..

 - King of Salem (Same root as “Shalom” = Peace)

 - King of Sodom (Sodom = burning, or burnt, immoral passion, no peace)

**Melchizedek – Theophany or Christophany**

**Gen 14:18**

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

1. **Melchizedek (King and Priest)**

**Heb 7:1-3**

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated "king of righteousness," and then also king of Salem, meaning "king of peace,"3 without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

1. **Theophony or Christophony:**

Is an appearance of Jesus in the Old Testament.

Other Examples:

* Wrestling with Jacob (Gen 32:22-32)
* 4th person in the fiery furnace (Dan 3:25)
* The Soldier that met Joshua (Josh 5:13-15)
1. **Who Else?**

# Who is the King of Jerusalem?

# Who is the King of Righteousness?

# Who is the King of Peace?

# Who is the Priest of the Most High God?

# Who is this that brought out Bread and Wine to Abraham?

# Who else could this possibly be who Blessed Abraham & then blessed God?

# Who is this King & Priest who has neither beginning of days, nor end of life and remains a priest continually (forever)?

# Who is this who received tithes from Abraham?

# THE ANSWER IS JESUS! THE SON OF GOD!

**Melchizedek – Bread and Wine**

**Gen 14:18-20**

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.19 And he blessed him and said:

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,

Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High,

Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

And he gave him a tithe of all.

1. **Refreshment and strengthening after battle:**

Notice in Genesis 14 verse 18 that Melchizedek brought the bread and the wine to Abram when he was weary from a time of tremendous warfare!

Thus understand that Communion (bread /wine) is meant to be a time in which **Jesus Himself** meets with us and “strengthens us” and “refreshes us” from the battles we’ve been fighting!

1. **Strengthening before the battle:**

The bread and wine was not only a time strengthening and refreshing Abram from the battles that he had been fighting.

But understand this encounter with Melchizedek was also a time in which Abram was being **strengthened** and **prepared** for the TEMPTATION that laid ahead in dealing with the King of “Perversity” Sodom!

1. **Time of Blessing from God:**

It was when Melchizedek brought Abram the bread and the wine that He blessed Abram!

Communion is a time in which Jesus desires to bless His people!

1. **Time God “revealed Himself”:**

It was when Melchizedek brought Abram the bread and the wine that He revealed God to Abram!

**Gen 14:19b-20**

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,

Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High,

Who has delivered your enemies into your hand."

 1. El Elyown “Most High God” - First time this title is used in the Bible

 2. Possessor of heaven & Earth.

 3. Deliverer!

Again what a beautiful picture this is of communion!

1. **Time of “Consecration” for Abram to God:**

The bread and wine was a time of Consecration to God!

In response to the bread and the wine that Abraham gave Melchizedek a tithe of all! (vs. 20)

**Gen 14:20c**

…And he gave him a tithe of all.

1. **That heart of Worship to honor God with our “1st and our best” gifts is right:**

**(Wise men)**

**Matt 2:11**

11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**(David – the man after God’s own heart)**

**2 Sam 24:24-25**

24 Then the king said to Arau-nah, "No, but I will surely buy it from you for a price; nor will I offer burnt offerings to the LORD my God with that which costs me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.25 And David built there an altar to the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD heeded the prayers for the land, and the plague was withdrawn from Israel.

**1 Sam 2:30b**

…..But now the LORD says: 'Far be it from Me; for those who honor Me I will honor, ……

**(Solomon the wisest man of all times says, don’t think otherwise)**

**Prov 3:5-10**

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,

And lean not on your own understanding;

6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,

And He shall direct your paths.

7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;

Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

8 It will be health to your flesh,And strength to your bones.

9 Honor the LORD with your possessions,

And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

10 So your barns will be filled with plenty,

And your vats will overflow with new wine.

**Despised the King of Sodom. Why?**

**Gen 14:21-24**

21 Now the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, and take the goods for yourself." 22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth,23 that I will take nothing, from a thread to a sandal strap, and that I will not take anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich' --

1. **Why did Abraham show such disgust to the King of Sodom:**

Jesus explains it to us this correct attitude:

**Matt 6:24**

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

1. **Valley of decision:**

Which one are you going to chose:

* Melchizedek king of Salem
* King of Sodom

**Matt 6:19-21**

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Matt 6:22-23**

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light.23 But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness!

**The eye?**

The eye is a Jewish expression on giving.

**Deut 15:9**

9 Beware lest there be a wicked thought in your heart, saying, 'The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand,' and your eye be evil against your poor brother and you give him nothing, and he cry out to the LORD against you, and it become sin among you.

**Prov 22:9**

9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed,

For he gives of his bread to the poor.

**Prov 28:22**

22 A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,

And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

1. **How do I get my heart in the right place and on the things of Heaven:**

**Again:**

**Matt 6:19-21**

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

**Paul tells us:**

**Col 3:1-2**

If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

**1 Tim 6:17-19**

Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.18 Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share,19 storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

**So Abram surrender in worship, what was his response**

**Gen 14:18-20**

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.

20c… And he gave him a tithe of all.

1. **First mention in the Bible on “Tithe”:**

We find this is a very important principle in the Bible.

**Quote:**

John D. Rockefeller explained a great principle when he said:

"I never would have been able to tithe the first million dollars I ever made if I had not tithed my first salary, which was $1.50 a week."

Why talk about money?

The Bible does.

Did you know:

Believe is mentioned 272 times in the Old and New Testament

Prayer is mentioned 371 times in the Old and New Testament

Love is mentioned 714 times in the Old and New Testament

Giving is mentioned 2162 times in the Old and New Testament

So, evidently God knows this is a subject that is tough to get through to us.

Did you know the **longest Chapter of the Bible is Ps. 119**, which is on the importance of God’s Word.

But did you know the **2nd longest Chapter in the Bible is Numbers 7**, which is just a list of names and what they gave.

**Tithing : The answer is found in Gen. 14, in the story of Abraham**

1. **Before the Law**
	1. **Abraham *the Father of our faith, gave a 10% 500years before a law told us to.***
	2. After these things (as we look on into Gen 15, as the story continues):

What things? Abraham tithed, then God says:

#### Gen. 15:1

1 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward."

God is saying get your heart on the treasures God is bring you.

In Himself and what He is giving and will give.

**Jesus teachings on this point:**

**Luke 12:16-21**

16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."'20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

21 "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

**Quote:**

You can’t take it with you but you can send it ahead.

1. **In the Law**

# Exod 23:19

19"The ***first*** of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the LORD your God.

# Lev 27:30

30'And all the ***tithe*** of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, **is the LORD'S**. It is ***holy to the LORD.***

**Analogy:**

Hold my wallet for me while I go swimming.

Get out can I have my wallet back?

No it is mind now, because it is in my possession.

1. **After the Law: Jesus Commanded**

# Luke 11:42

42"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs, and pass by justice and the love of God. ***These you ought to have done,*** without leaving the others undone.

 ***In the Greek the word “ought” is “deo”, which can also be translated***

 ***“must” , such as in,***

# John 3:7

7"Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You (***must)*** be born again.'

If you look at the grammatical syntax of the verse, the one that should not be passed by is “justice and the love of God. And the other that you “must, ought” to do is to tithe.

**The Cost is relative to you and what God has blessed you with.**

1. **The tithe is require, and then there is an offering above that:**

**2 Cor 8:1-7**

Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia:2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality.3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing,4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.7 But as you abound in everything -- in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us -- see that you abound in this grace also.

**2 Cor 9:6-8**

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.

1. **God’s desire is that you would “over-flow”:**

**Luke 6:38**

38 "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

**(Jesus uses the farmer buying the seed as and example or a metaphor)**

1. The farmer comes with his basket, to buy seed
2. pour in seed
3. shake- shake the air pockets out
4. pressed down
5. pour again until running over

**Prov 11:24-25**

24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.

25 The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself.

**God declares this is a “serious issue”, that reveals man’s heart:**

**Mal 3:8-12**

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the LORD of hosts, **"If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it.** 11 "And I will **rebuke the devourer** for your sakes, so that he will **not destroy** the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to **bear fruit for you** in the field," says the LORD of hosts;12 "And all nations will call you blessed, for **you will be a delightful land**," says the LORD of hosts.

**Story: (Lady over heard people complaining about the Church raising money):**

A women who lost her son, said, my son cost me, clothes, food, for school and sports, babysitters, he was costly to our budget,

How I wish he would cost us again, after the funeral he has never cost us again.

 **One man hearing this writes, in response I am glad our church is alive:**

* I’m glad my church needs money!

It is a sign the church is alive

* I’m glad my church needs money!

Reaching the Children

* I’m glad my church needs money!

If it didn't, it would mean it wasn't interested in providing wholesome activities for our teenagers and had no concern.

* I’m glad my church needs money!

If it didn't it would mean it wasn't supporting missionaries and preaching the Gospel Though out the world

* I’m glad my church needs money!

Because our school is so blessed, we need more classroom, offices, and Gymnasiums

* I’m glad my church needs money!

If it didn't, it would mean it wasn't doing anything to support the needy and had no compassion.

* I am glad our Church is cost money,

because if it didn’t we would be dead and not alive.

**Story:**

The day the church treasurer resigned the church asked the local grain elevator manager to take the position. He agreed under two conditions.

 - That no treasurer's report would be given for the first year.

 - That no questions be asked about finances during that year.

 - The people were surprised but finally agreed since most of them did business with him and he was

 a trusted man.

 At the end of the year he gave his report:

 \* The church indebtedness of $228,000 has been paid.

 \* The minister's salary had been increased by 8%.

 \* The outreach other ministries gifts has been paid 200%.

 \* There were no outstanding bills.

 \* And there was a cash balance of $11,252!

 Immediately the shocked congregation asked,

 - "How did you do it?

 - Where did the money come from?"

 He quietly answered: "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. Throughout the year I simply withheld ten percent on your behalf and gave it to the church in your name. You didn't even miss it!"

 "Do you see what we could do for the Lord if we were all willing to give at least the tithe to God,

 who really owns it?"

 And so the new treasurer had made his point.

**Why I can’t tithe:**

In January because of Christmas bills due.

 In February because of fuel bills and car upkeep.

 In March because of income taxes.

 In April because of clothes for Easter.

 In May because graduation presents .

 In June because fix up the yard.

 In July because of vacation expenses coming up.

 In August because of vacation expenses to be paid.

 In September because of the children's school needs.

 In October because of winter clothes and doctor bills.

 In November because of the Thanksgiving trip.

 In December because of the Christmas shopping.

**Our Lord Jesus also said,**

## Acts 20:35

35"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**Conclusion**

**Phil 4:15-20**

15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

**Quote:**

Jim Elliot “He is no fool to give what he can not keep, to gain what he can not loose.”