

November 11, 2018
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
SPENT : What's Sow Important About The Harvest?
ABRAHAM GIVES TO MELCHIZEDEK
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Genesis 14:17-24

¹⁷ After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).¹⁸ Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, ¹⁹and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. ²⁰And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.²¹ The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." ²²But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, ²³that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' ²⁴I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

Key Point: The most influential organization in the world is meant to be the local church.

- When the church gets holiness and sacrificial living right, there is nothing on Earth that can stop it.

Understanding God And Money: It is impossible to extricate material sacrifice from biblical spirituality.

- **Biblical Examples Of The Tithe:** **Abel and Cain** Gen 4:1-5 , **Abraham, Moses** Ex 25:2, Jesus and the Widow's mite **Luke 21:1-2**, Nehemiah's collection **Neh 10:37**, Paul's collection of an offering for the Jerusalem church **2 Cor 8-9**.

Understanding The Individual Offering Versus The Corporate Tithe

- **The corporate Tithe is the collaborative work of God's people to financially support a local church in the establishment of the kingdom of God in a community.**
 - **Genesis 4:1-5** *Adam made love to his wife Eve, and she became pregnant and gave birth to Cain. She said, "With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man."² Later she gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.*
 - **Note:** The first two events mentioned directly after the fall of mankind are the creation of family and offerings given unto the Lord.
 - The Genesis 4 passage shows that you can do the right thing in the wrong way.

Genesis 14:20 *Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.*

- **Note:** This is the first instance of a tithe being given unto a priest.

Understanding Melchizedek: Biblical historians tell us that Melchizedek was a king and the high priest of Salem.

- Salem is believed to be the name of the city that would become Jerusalem.
- Melchizedek was not only the king of this city, but a priest that Abraham understood to be a representative of God.
 - **Hebrews 7** takes a deep dive into who Melchizedek truly was. Many scholars believe that it was Jesus Himself who met Abraham that day.
 - One argument for this is that God did not allow the king to also be a priest. This is why Saul sinned when he made the sacrifice rather than Samuel.

Key Point: Abraham was giving directly to God and the work that was to be accomplished in his holy city.

Challenge: As family members in this community, will we do the same to see God's Kingdom established on earth.

Questions for the journey: Use these questions for deep reflection or in one of our community groups.

1. Do you believe that the church is called to be the most influential organization on earth? Why and how?
2. The first two acts written about after the fall of man are the creation of the family and offerings being given unto God. Why do you think that this is?
3. The corporate tithe is meant to bring believers together to establish the kingdom of God on earth. Why do you think God wants us working together on this?
4. Why do you think God chose 10% as a number to be used for sacrificial giving?
5. Do you think the local church should be the first place believers give when considering their tithing?
6. Challenge: Pick a % this year and give it consistently. Record what happens.