

Welcome To Open Bible Hour

Thank you for joining us on this Lord's Day!

Our desire is that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ as we pursue an in-depth study of the book of Hebrews.



“MELCHIZEDEK — THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX”

PART 2

Heb. 7:11-17

May 5, 2013

Melchizedek -

1. Not an angel – the Priesthood was a human not angelic office.
2. Not Christ or a Christophany – Melchizedek was one “made like the Son of God, not “as being the Son of God.

****The important issue here is not who Melchizedek is, but who Jesus Christ is.**

Heb 7:1-10

- 1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,
- 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is 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, he remains a priest perpetually.
- 4 Now observe how great this man was to whom Abraham, the patriarch, gave a tenth of the choicest spoils.
- 5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a tenth from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham.
- 6 But the one whose genealogy is not traced from them collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises.
- 7 But without any dispute the lesser is blessed by the greater.
- 8 In this case mortal men receive tithes, but in that case one receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives on.
- 9 And, so to speak, through Abraham even Levi, who received tithes, paid tithes,
- 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

Heb 7:1-10

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- 2 to whom also Abraham apportioned a **tenth** part of all the spoils, was first of all, by the translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace.
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- 5 And those indeed of the sons of Levi who receive the priest's office have commandment in the Law to collect a **tenth** from the people, that is, from their brethren, although these are descended from Abraham.
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Tithing

- All money given in the Bible falls into 2 categories – Required Payment or Voluntary Giving.
- The Tithe means a tenth.

Old Testament: Before the Law (Gen 1 – Ex.20)

Required Payment

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Voluntary Giving

Gen. 14:20 – Abraham gave a tenth of his victory spoils to Melchizedek.

Gen. 28:22 – Jacob gave a tenth to the Lord.

- These were not required or commanded by the Lord.
- Both of these instances are voluntary offerings and have nothing in common with the later legal tithe or tenth placed on the nation of Israel. Both men were following the custom of that time found not only in Palestine, but also Egypt and Mesopotamia of rendering a tenth to support a recognized priesthood. The taxation of that culture was always in tenths.

Old Testament: Law – Christ (Ex. 20 – Matt. 1)

Required Payment

The Tithe

Voluntary Giving

Tithing

- Tithing was required by the Mosaic Law as a means of supporting the theocracy (gov't) of Israel.
- The tithe for the nation of Israel was their means of taxation. It was not Israel's means of giving to the Lord.
- There were 3 types of tithes:
 1. A tithe (tenth) was required for the support of the tribe of Levi (Num. 18:21-24). The purpose of this tithe was to relieve the Priests of labor to make a living so that they might be able to study and teach the Word of God and conduct the activities of the Temple (Num. 18:26-28).
 2. A tithe (tenth) was required to finance and support the official feasts and sacrifices (Deut. 14:22-24; 12:17-19; 2 Chron. 31:5)
 3. A tithe (tenth) was required every third year to provide for the poor, widows, orphans, and Levites (Deut. 14:28,29; 26:12,13). It was like our Social Security Tax.

Summary

A tithe was required to support:

1. The Priests (gov't leaders) - **10%**
2. The official Feasts - **10%**
3. The underprivileged **3.3%**

Total Required - 23.3%

- + **That which was left from the harvest was to be for the needy and the stranger (Lev. 19:9).**
- + **Temple Tax – 1/3 of a shekel – approx. \$200 (Neh. 10:32,33).**
- + **Sabbath rest of the land every 7th year for the poor and the animals (Ex. 23).**

- The tithe was a fixed percentage. Though all people were not equal in their income, employment, and material possessions, the tithe-tax was fixed; all had the same 23.3%+ responsibility to the gov't of Israel.

Old Testament: Law – Christ (Ex. 20 – Matt.1)

Required Payment

The Tithe

Voluntary Giving

Ex. 35:20-29 – giving of material possessions .

Ex. 36:1-7 – giving of abilities and skills.

1 Chron 29:6-9 – money given for construction of the Temple.

2 Chron 35:8 – giving of animals for sacrifice.

Ezra 1:4-6 – money was given.

Ezra 2:68 – money was given.

Ezra 8:28 – gold and silver were given.

N.T. - Christ – Church (Matt 1 – Acts 2)

Required Payment

Matt. 17:24,25 – pay tax to Rome.

Matt. 22:15-22 – pay tax to Rome and the tithe to Israel.

Luke 11:42 – pay the required tithe to Israel.

Voluntary Giving

Matt. 22:21 – give to God.

Luke 6:38

38 "Give, and it will be given to you. They will pour into your lap a good measure — pressed down, shaken together, and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return."

N.T. - Church Age (Acts 2 – Rev. 22)

Required Payment

Voluntary Giving

Rom. 13:1-6 – pay your taxes.

1 Cor. 16:1,2

- **Heb. 7:1,2** – only reference to tithing after birth of the Church and it is a reference back to Gen. 14.

2 Cor. 9:6-11

Rom 13:6-7

6 For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing.

7 Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

Rom 12:8

8 he who gives, with liberality.

1 Cor 16:1,2

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I directed the churches of Galatia, so do you also.

2 On the first day of every week each one of you is to put aside and save, as he may prosper, so that no collections be made when I come.

2 Cor 9:6-11

6 Now this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed;

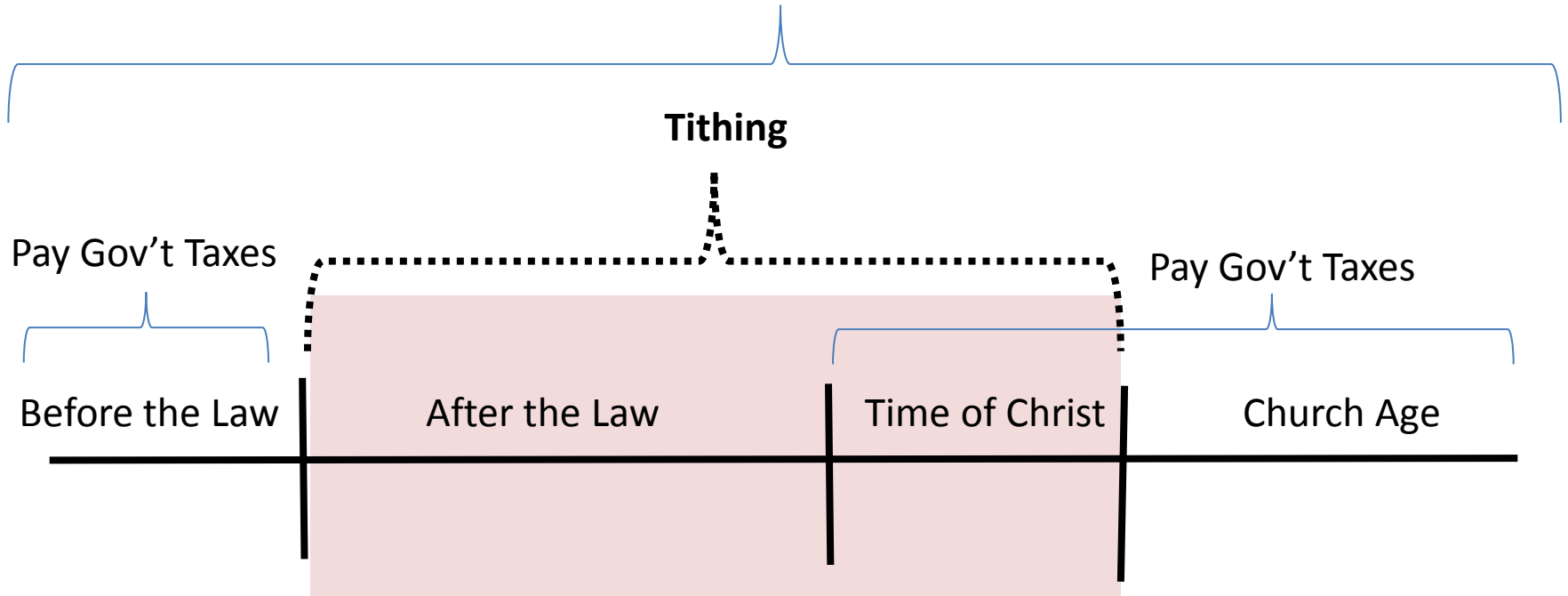
9 as it is written,

"HE SCATTERED ABROAD, HE GAVE TO THE POOR,
HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER."

10 Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness;

11 you will be enriched in everything for all liberality, which through us is producing thanksgiving to God.

Voluntary Giving



Heb 7:11-17

11 Now if perfection was through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the people received the Law), what further need was there for another priest to arise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be designated according to the order of Aaron?

***The Levitical Priesthood was unable to perfect anyone.**

12 For when the priesthood is changed, of necessity there takes place a change of law also.

***The ceremonial law was unable to perfect anyone.**

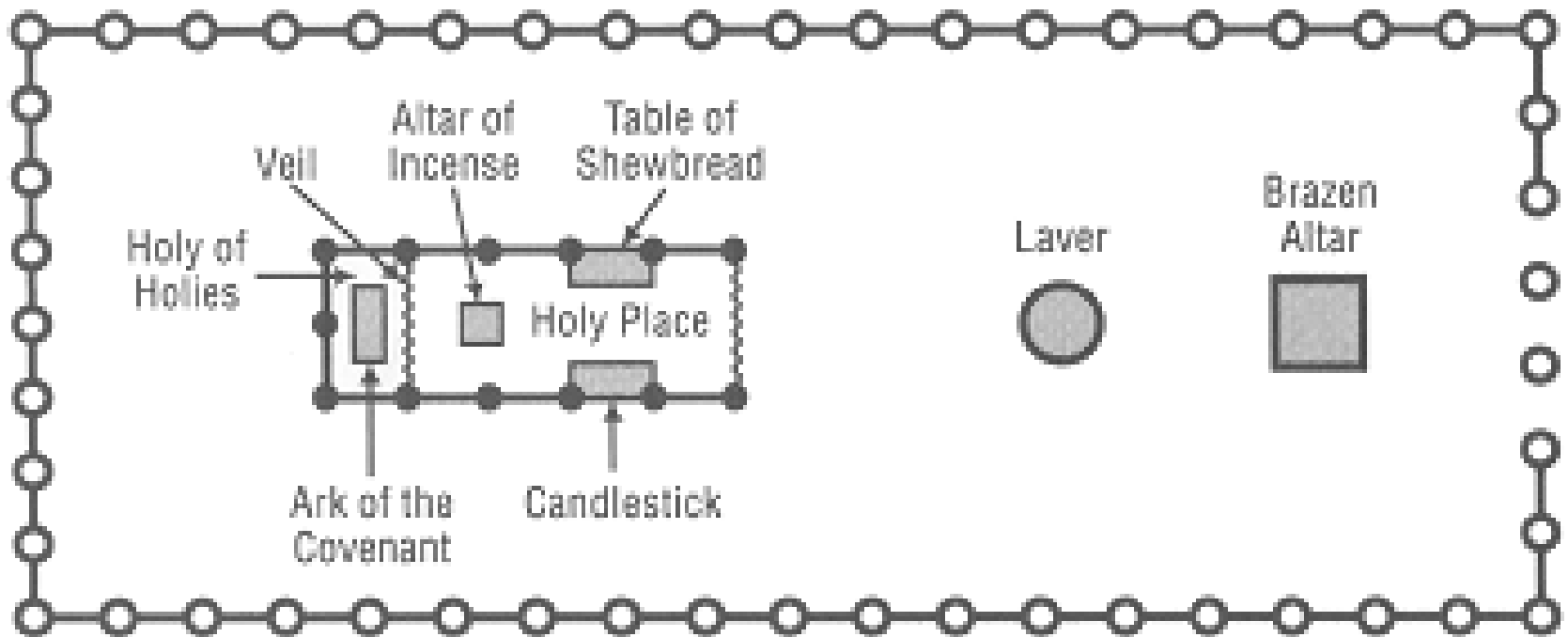
Heb 10:1-4

1 For the Law, since it was only a shadow of the good things to come and not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins?

3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins year by year.

4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.









13 For the one concerning whom these things are spoken belongs to another tribe, from which no one has officiated at the altar.

***A Priest must come from outside the tribe of Levi who is able to perfect.**

14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, a tribe with reference to which Moses spoke nothing concerning priests.

***Jesus Christ came from the tribe of Judah and was not authorized by Moses.**

15 And this is clearer still, if another priest arises according to the likeness of Melchizedek,

16 who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement (100+ - Lev. 21:17-23. 25-50, not lame, blind, not having a broken hand, food, scabs, not disfigured, or deformed etc.), but according to the power of an indestructible life.

***Perfection requires a Priest who is eternal.**

17 For it is attested of Him,

"YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER

ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."

***Jesus Christ meets all of the criteria needed to perfect us.**

Application:

1. Though your life may seem incidental, take courage, you may be another Melchizedek!
2. Our dependence on the righteousness of Christ is grounded in His ability to perfect us forever.
3. No priest or religious leader today can come close to accomplishing what our High Priest has done for us.
4. Too many people still get stuck in the “box” of the O.T. Levitical Priesthood – legalism, ceremony, ritual, tradition, etc.
5. The more you are connected to the Levitical Priesthood the more disconnected you are to Christ.