

## ***“Tithe and Offering/God & Money”***

***“Genesis 14:14-24, 15:1”***

Many people like to argue and state that tithing is no longer necessary because we now live under Grace. They may argue and state that because of grace and since we are no longer under the law there is no reason for us to tithe. But this lesson will inform us that tithing to the Lord is still biblical because tithing was instituted prior to the law. Because tithing is ordained by God and was instituted before the law and continues after the law it is our Christian duty and obligation to give unto the Lord the tithe.

**Verse 14:** Abraham receives word that his nephew Lot had been taken captive as a prisoner of war while living in the land of Sodom. Abraham then proceeds to take 318 slaves that have been trained to fight into battle with him to get his nephew Lot.

- 1) Because of Lot’s decision to live amongst disobedient people who did not worship the true and living God lot faced the consequences of being taken captive.
- 2) When we live or spend time amongst ungodly people we can sometimes become guilty by association. We also run the risk facing the same punishment that those individuals face because of disobedience towards God.
- 3) This verse also shows us the wealth that Abraham had accumulated in that he had 318 slaves that he could risk losing in war.

**Verse 15,16:** Abraham also had a military strategy to get save his cousin from the hands of the enemy. Abraham decided to surround the enemy at night and then ambush them when they did not expect it. Abraham was able to be successful in battle and defeat them although he was outnumbered. The successfulness of the battle is shown by Abraham and his 318 slaves being able to full bring back all of the goods, Lot, his goods, as well as the women and the people.

- 1) When God is on your side you can win battles that are not yours to fight and be successful even when the odds are against you.

**Verse 17,18:** The king of Sodom, other kings, and Melchizedek king of Salem went out to meet with Abraham because he was able to do something that they could not do. However, Melchizedek is the only king who worships the true and living God and he is also the only king that came bearing gifts to give unto Melchizedek.

- 1) Because they did not bring gifts to Melchizedek we can assume that they were not as grateful as they tried to appear.
- 2) Melchizedek is also the only king to arrive and not ask Abraham for anything.

**Verse 19,20:** Because of Abraham was victorious in battle and was able to save people along with their possessions Melchizedek felt it necessary to bless Abraham.

### *Facts about Melchizedek*

- 1) Melchizedek represents a type of Christ in that he has no beginning or ending. We have no information as to when he was born, when he died, or who his parents were.
- 2) Melchizedek was also a king and a high priest just like Christ.
- 3) Abraham seen Melchizedek as a representation of God himself which moved Abraham to give unto Melchizedek the tithe.
- 4) Just like when Melchizedek blessed Abraham and Abraham gave unto him the tithe is the same God blesses us and we are obligated to give unto the Lord the tithe.
- 5) Abraham did not give Melchizedek tithes of somethings but he have Melchizedek tithe of all. We have Christian obligation to give the Lord the tithe from all of our increase.
- 6) ***Read: Hebrews 7:1-7***

**Verse 21-24:** Although Melchizedek came offering gifts to bless Abraham the king of Sodom came offering nothing. Because the king of Sodom as well as the other kings did not worship the true and living God Abraham knew that he could not trust to take anything from them because they would try to take credit for Abraham being blessed.

- 1) Every blessing is not from the true and living God. We must be able to distinguish when a blessing is of the Lord and when it is of the enemy.
- 2) We must never allow other people to take the credit for the things that God has done in our lives.
- 3) Abraham proved himself to be honorable because he would not take any of the spoil from them but rather would only accept the blessings from the Lord.

**Verse 15:1** Although Abraham refused the blessing from the kings of Sodom God still had another blessing from Abraham. God informed Abraham that he would be his shield and his great reward.

- 1) Tithing gives us access to things that money can't buy. It also gives us access to God in a different way.
- 2) Because Abraham gave the Lord the tithe God informed him that he would offer Abraham protection.
- 3) He also informed Abraham that He would be his reward. In other words because Abraham relinquished the tithe/tenth God said you now qualify to have me.