

Come let us Grow Together: Tithes

Come let us Grow Together is a weekly series that deals with the many topical categories that exist within the Word of God. The purpose of this series is to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding in things pertaining to God.

A crucial topic that many Christians do not understand is that paying tithes is a commandment of God and does not cease under the New Testament Covenant. Something many overlook is that tithing was instituted before the Law of Moses came to be. Therefore tithing is outside of the Law, was also in the Law, and today is also under the New Testament Covenant of grace. If a person will recognize that tithing took place outside of the Law it will help you to eliminate the question of we are not under the Law so why do we have to pay tithes in the New Testament? This lesson is going to show you that there are two priesthood orders. The first order of Melchisedec which was before the Law of Moses and the second order of Aaron which was during the Law of Moses or what is known as the Mosaic Law.

Hebrews 6:20

20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Jesus Christ is after the order of Melchisedec. To better understand who Melchisedec is we will be looking at Hebrews chapter 7.

Hebrews 7:1-11

7:1 For this Melchisedec, 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 by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

This is so very important to understand. Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec. This was done before the Mosaic Law was instituted. Tithing was being instituted here. Outside of the Mosaic Law. This Melchisedec was God...

3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

Notice that it says that He was made like unto the Son of God and abides a priest continually. This is because He is God. Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life. Now listen to what is spoken...

4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

The sons of Levi was the tribe that God established the priesthood with under the Mosaic Law. They were commanded to take tithes of the people according to the law.

6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.

Pay special attention to what was spoken in verse 6. But He (Melchisedec) who was not of the Levitical priesthood received tithes of Abraham. This being before the Law was instituted.

7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.

Verse 7 is saying without contradiction the less (Abraham who had the promises of God) is blessed of the better. (Melchisedec who was God.)

8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

Notice here in verse 8 that it says and here men that die receive tithes (Levitical priesthood) but He (Melchisedec) received them, of whom it is witnessed that He lives. This is because He is God; without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life.

9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

Notice here in verses 9 and 10 that it is said that the Levitical priesthood paid tithes to Melchisedec while in the loins of Abraham his father.

11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

There are two orders. The order of Aaron and the order of Melchisedec. Jesus Christ was after the order of Melchisedec and not after the order of Aaron. But both orders of priesthood received tithes. Thus tithing is to be paid because Jesus Christ is after the order of Melchisedec and Abraham our father paid tithes to Him as well as the Levitical priesthood though they were in the loins of their father Abraham at that time.

Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Hebrews 8:6-8

6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

7 For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Hebrews 7:12-28

12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

With the promise of a New Covenant there was made of necessity a change also of the priesthood. Our Lord, who came after the order of Melchisedec, came out of the tribe of Juda and not out of the tribe of Levi.

15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, (this being Jesus Christ)

16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life.

17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Jesus Christ was in the similitude of Melchisedec. Remember from verse 2 above that Melchisedec is "by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;" Just as we know that Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace.

Also Jesus Christ had the power of an endless life just as Melchisedec from verse 4 we learned was also without end of life as well as verse 8 "it is witnessed that he liveth."

18 For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he was made priest:

21 (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

26 For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

What we learn from this lesson is that there are 2 orders of priesthood. That of Melchisedec and that of Aaron. Jesus Christ was after the order of Melchisedec. Both orders received tithes. And since Jesus Christ is after this order of Melchisedec we also are to pay tithes because both orders received tithes.

Remember that when you pay tithes, you are not tithing unto men but unto God.

Hebrews 13:8

8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Malachi 3:8-11

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

1 Corinthians 9:9-14

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

It's time to stop robbing God of His tithes and offerings!! Tithing is taught in the New Testament as Jesus is of the order of Melchisedec which was before the Mosaic Law.