

Will a Man Rob God?

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

The many “true” churches of God in existence today, all insist that tithing continues to be a requirement in the New Testament. The Scripture of choice they use to justify their claim is Mal 3:8 but to who was God then speaking? In New Testament times, God’s nation is spiritual. NT Christians’ high priest and only mediator between them and God is the Word who became Jesus-Christ. Their relationship with God is through the sure word of God, the holy Bible. There are no organization of men between them and God. Then why would tithing be necessary and to whom would they pay tithes?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he **[God’s Son]** might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he **[the glorified Christ]** is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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Tithing, according to the many and doctrinally different churches of God that exist today, is a requirement for those who are members of their organizations. They all claim to be the continuation of God's one true church founded on the day of Pentecost.

In this study, we will examine the Scriptures where tithing is mentioned. We will determine who were those who were to tithe, who were those who were to receive tithes and why. A review will also be done of the nature of God's nation in the Old Testament (OT) and of who and what it is in the New Testament (NT) as this has a direct bearing on tithing.

Christians who want to be sure they are not being misled by the many false prophets who were to be both in the world and among the truly converted have to be continuously proving all things with their Bible, their only sure source of truth. It is not a one time requirement. They must ever be watchful that they are not wasting their time and money by being members of organizations of men who are using religion as a means of enriching themselves. According to the Bible, there would be many men claiming to be true representatives of God speaking God's truth (prophets) and it would be the many not only in the world but also among the truly converted, who would follow them.

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, [in God's church] who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many [of the truly converted of God's church; that's you] shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Why would they follow them in such great numbers?

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they [truly converted Christians] will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

They would get tired of hearing God's truth which makes them feel bad about doing other things which are more to their liking but which they now know to be sin. So, they'll look for preachers who will reassure them that they are all on their way to God's Kingdom no matter what they do in their personal lives.

Another way modern-day false prophets use to motivate people to join and stay with them is the fear of being caught up in the Great Tribulation which is always soon coming. They say they are the only true church which will be taken to a place of safety. No one wants to find himself in the Great Tribulation. This is why they endure being mistreated and financially exploited by false prophets who live the lives of the rich and famous all paid by the money they extract from their followers.

What would be the motivation of these false prophets who would come into God's Church? Your Bible tells you if you will believe it and that it is something that has been happening over the many centuries of the existence of God's Church and which is happening, now, today.

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness [an excessive desire for riches or money] shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

All one has to do is consider the large amounts of money taken from their followers and how they spend it on land, buildings and executive jets to realize what is their true motivation. If the end is so near, why is it necessary to have all these things to which more are being added as more money becomes available.

God holds you personally responsible for identifying who are the false prophets you may come in contact with and for separating yourself from them even if it means having to remain by yourself with God's truth because it is more important to you than friends, family and any social group.

Are you proving all things or have you found a comfortable pew in one of the many “true” churches of God and fully placed your trust in the men acting as ministers of God in them? No man can save any other man nor can any man be saved by the works of others. God holds you personally responsible for your salvation. The only man any man can ever save is himself. Salvation is not a matter of belonging to the right organization, following the right man or believing what everybody else around you believes. Salvation is between you and God and your Bible.

Let's get started on this study by reviewing who was God's Church in OT times.

God's Church in the Wilderness

God's nation in the OT was the physical nation of Israel which is referred to as being “....the church in the wilderness....” in Act 7:38.

Act 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Act 7:38 This is he, [\[Moses\]](#) that was in [the church in the wilderness](#) with the angel [\[God the Word\]](#) which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles [\[the 10 Commandments\]](#) to give unto us: [\[the physical nation of Israel\]](#)

This nation, though being God's church in the wilderness, was never converted as Christ had not then yet been sacrificed.

Joh 7:38 [He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.](#)

Joh 7:39 [\(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.\)](#)

The being called by the translators of the Bible, in many Scriptures, the “Holy Ghost” is, depending on the context, the holy spirit God the Father responsible for calling men to salvation or the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman responsible for teaching all things to God the Fathers’ called, chosen and faithful ones. This topic has already been covered in detail in the “Preamble” to this study as well as in the following studies: [Who or What is the Holy Spirit? What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who is God's Spirit?](#) If you haven't already read

these studies, I would strongly encourage you to do so.

In the Old Covenant made with the physical nation of Israel, there was no possibility that even upon perfect obedience, access would be given to the holy spirits of the God family: God the Father, and God the Word and Spokesman. The reason why is given us in Joh 7:39 which we have just read. Christ had not then yet died as God's perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind which upon belief and repentance could be forgiven.

Physical Israel was given repetitive, laborious, physical and symbolic ceremonies and rituals as their means of demonstrating their obedience to God. The forgiveness of sin was only symbolic and ceremonial which is to say, none of their rituals really forgave sin.

Heb 7:19 For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.

The forgiveness of sin is what makes us perfect in God's eyes. The observance of the law of works given ancient Israel never forgave sin. It was called the law of works as the making of the sacrifices was laborious.

Heb 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The physical nation of Israel had a physical priesthood: Aaron and his sons were the priests. They were of the tribe of Levi.

Lev 1:7 And the sons of **Aaron the priest** shall put fire upon the altar, and lay the wood in order upon the fire:

Lev 1:8 And **the priests, Aaron's sons**, shall lay the parts, the head, and the fat, in order upon the wood that is on the fire which is upon the altar:

The other Levites were not priests but were responsible for the tabernacle of the congregation. As we read through the books of Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy and Joshua we always have to keep in mind that ONLY Aaron and his sons were priests and that all the other Levites were dedicated to the service of the tabernacle of the congregation and WERE NOT PRIESTS. Knowing this distinction, and keeping it in mind as we read through the Scriptures, will enable us to know who was responsible for tithing and to whom the tithes were to be given.

Also, knowing and understanding the great difference between God's OT church in the wilderness, the physical nation of Israel and God's NT spiritual nation of Israel or church, will give us the means to correctly

understand whether tithing is required or not for God's New Testament church.

The Inheritance of the Priests

The 18th chapter of Numbers provides us with good explanation of what it was God gave Aaron and his sons, the Levitical priests of Israel for their service as priest in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Let's go through it and I will highlight the key points of importance to us as we do so.

Num 18:1 And the LORD said unto Aaron, Thou and thy sons and thy father's house with thee shall bear the iniquity [be responsible for] of the sanctuary: and thou and thy sons with thee shall bear the iniquity [be responsible] of your priesthood.

Num 18:2 And thy brethren also of the tribe of Levi, the tribe of thy father, bring thou with thee, that they may be joined unto thee, and minister unto thee: but thou and thy sons with thee shall minister before the tabernacle of witness.

The other Levites who were not priests (Num 18:2) were to serve Aaron and his sons by the maintenance work they were to do for and in the tabernacle of the congregation. In Numbers 1: 47-54 and 3: 5-10 and in the following verses of Num 18 we are given what were these responsibilities.

They, like Aaron and his sons, were given no part in the land.

Num 18:23 But the Levites [who are not priests] shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: [be responsible for] it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they [the Levites who are not priests] have no inheritance.

Their responsibility was for the maintenance of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 18:3 And they [the Levites who are not priests] shall keep thy charge, and the charge of all the tabernacle: only they shall not come nigh the vessels of the sanctuary and the altar, that neither they, nor ye also, die.

The sanctuary was the holy of holies that only the high priest could enter.

Num 18:4 And they shall be joined unto thee, [Aaron and his sons the priest] and keep the charge of the tabernacle of the congregation, for all the service of the tabernacle: and a stranger shall not come nigh unto you.

Num 18:5 And ye [Aaron and his sons] shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, [the holy of holies] and the charge of the altar: [on which there was a partial burning of the sacrifices brought to the tabernacle of the congregation] that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.

Num 18:6 And I [God], behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites [who are not priests] from among the children of Israel: to you [Aaron] they are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 18:7 Therefore thou [Aaron] and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

And, in the next verses of Num 18, God tells Aaron what He is giving him and his sons for the work they do as His priests.

Num 18:20 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them: I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel.

God gave Aaron and his sons, His part of the offerings brought to the tabernacle of the congregation by the children of Israel. This is explained in Num 18: 8-17. When reading these verses there are 2 things you should keep in mind. A "meat" offering is something to eat; it can be animal meat but not always. And, for sacrifices that were not wholly burnt, the priest would take a small part of the offering and burn it. This is called the memorial part of the offering. This memorial part was taken from the heave or the wave offering which are God's part of the offerings that were given to Aaron and his sons. If God had not given Aaron and his sons His part of the offerings, then all offerings would have been fully burnt.

Num 18:8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, Behold, I also have given thee the charge of mine **heave offerings** of all the hallowed things of the children of Israel; unto thee have I given them [**the heave offerings from the people's offerings**] by reason of the anointing, [**as God's priests**] and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever.

Num 18:9 This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: [**not burnt up**] every oblation [**offering**] of theirs, [**the children of Israel**] every **meat offering** of theirs, and every **sin offering** of theirs, and every **trespass offering** of theirs, which they shall render unto me, shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons.

Num 18:10 In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee.

Num 18:11 And this is thine; **the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings** of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it.

Num 18:12 **All the best** of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the **firstfruits** of them which they shall offer unto the LORD, them have I given thee.

Num 18:13 And **whatsoever is first ripe in the land**, which they shall bring unto the LORD, shall be thine; every one that is clean in thine house shall eat of it.

Num 18:14 Every thing devoted in Israel shall be thine.

Num 18:15 Every thing that openeth the matrix in **all flesh**, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless **the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem.**

The firstborn of man and of beast were to be sacrificed but God says they are to be redeemed (their lives spared] by paying a certain amount of money.

Num 18:16 And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

Num 18:17 But the **firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem**; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

When God freed Israel from its Egyptian slavery, He took the lives of the firstborn of men and animals of the Egyptians and spared the lives of the firstborn of men and animals of Israel. Therefore, He says the firstborn of men and animals of Israel are His but they are to be redeemed by paying a certain amount of money to the Levites who are priests.

Exo 13:15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem.

The Meat Offering

Lev 2:9 And the priest shall take from the meat offering a **memorial thereof**, and shall burn it upon the altar: it is an offering made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Lev 2:10 And **that which is left of the meat offering shall be Aaron's and his sons'**: it is a thing most holy of the offerings of the LORD made by fire.

Lev 6:14 And this is the law of the **meat offering**: the sons of Aaron shall offer it before the LORD, before the altar.

The Sin Offering

Lev 5:11 But if he be not able to bring two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, then he that sinned shall bring for his offering the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering; he shall put no oil upon it, neither shall he put any frankincense thereon: for it is a **sin offering**.

Lev 5:12 Then shall he bring it to the priest, and the priest shall take his handful of it, even a **memorial thereof**, and burn it on the altar, according to the offerings made by fire unto the LORD: it is a **sin offering**.

Lev 5:13 And the priest shall make an atonement for him as touching his sin that he hath sinned in one of these, and it shall be forgiven him: and **the remnant shall be the priest's, as a meat offering.**

Lev 6:25 Speak unto Aaron and to his sons, saying, This is the law of the **sin offering:** In the place where the burnt offering is killed shall the sin offering be killed before the LORD: it is most holy.

Lev 6:26 **The priest that offereth it for sin shall eat it:** in the holy place shall it be eaten, in the court of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The Trespass Offering

Lev 7:5 And the priest shall burn them upon the altar for an offering made by fire unto the LORD: it is a **trespass offering.**

Lev 7:6 **Every male among the priests shall eat thereof:** it shall be eaten in the holy place: it is most holy.

Lev 7:7 As the sin offering is, so is the trespass offering: there is one law for them: **the priest that maketh atonement therewith shall have it.**

Lev 7:8 And the priest that offereth any man's burnt offering, even the priest shall have to himself **the skin of the burnt offering which he hath offered.**

God's part of the animals and foodstuff offered by the children of Israel as commanded by God's law of offerings, was given to the priests.

Num 18:17 But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Num 18:18 And the flesh of them shall be thine, as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine.

Num 18:19 **All the heave offerings** of the holy things, **[firstlings of clean animals and the firstfruits of their fields,**

orchards and vineyards (Num 18:11-15)] which the children of Israel offer [as per law of offerings (Num 18:9)] unto the LORD, have I given thee, and thy sons and thy daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: it is a covenant of salt for ever before the LORD unto thee and to thy seed [children] with thee.

So, as we have been reading, the Levitical priesthood lived from God's part of the offerings brought to the tabernacle of the congregation. The heave and the wave offering of the offerings brought to the tabernacle were God's part.

When it came to offerings which were fruits and vegetables, none of it was burnt on the altar.

Lev 2:12 As for the oblation [offering] of the firstfruits, ye shall offer them unto the LORD: but they shall not be burnt on the altar for a sweet savour as was the fat of animals.

Lev 2:14 And if thou offer a meat [something to eat; in this instance, fruits or vegetables] offering of thy firstfruits unto the LORD, thou shalt offer for the meat offering of thy firstfruits green ears of corn dried by the fire, even corn beaten out of full ears.

Lev 2:15 And thou shalt put oil upon it, and lay frankincense thereon: it is a meat offering.

Lev 2:16 And the priest shall burn the memorial of it, part of the beaten corn thereof, and part of the oil thereof, with all the frankincense thereof: it is an offering made by fire unto the LORD.

Aaron and his sons were God's priests and their maintenance was through God's part of the sacrifices commanded under the law of offerings; IT WAS NOT THROUGH TITHES.

But, there was tithing in the OT physical nation of Israel and now we will examine who was required to tithe, how many tithes there were, to whom they were given and how were they given.

Now, we need to determine what are the responsibilities of the Levites who were not priests as a necessary step to answering these questions.

The Responsibilities of the Children of Levi

Num 8:19 And I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and to his sons from among the children of Israel, to do the service of the children of Israel in the tabernacle of the congregation, and to make an atonement for the children of Israel: that there be no plague among the children of Israel, when the children of Israel come nigh unto the sanctuary.

God gave the Levites who are not priests to Aaron and his sons who are the priests to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. What is the work they were to perform?

Num 1:47 But the Levites after the tribe of their fathers were not numbered among them.

Num 1:48 For the LORD had spoken unto Moses, saying,

Num 1:49 Only thou shalt not number the tribe of Levi, neither take the sum of them among the children of Israel:

Num 1:50 But thou shalt appoint the Levites [the ones that are not priests] over the tabernacle of testimony, and over all the vessels thereof, and over all things that belong to it: they shall bear the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof; and they shall minister unto it, and shall encamp round about the tabernacle.

Num 1:51 And when the tabernacle setteth forward, the Levites shall take it down: and when the tabernacle is to be pitched, the Levites shall set it up: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Num 1:52 And the children of Israel shall pitch their tents, every man by his own camp, and every man by his own standard, throughout their hosts.

Num 1:53 But the Levites shall pitch round about the tabernacle of testimony, that there be no wrath upon the congregation of the children of Israel: and the Levites shall keep the charge of the tabernacle of testimony.

Num 1:54 And the children of Israel did according to all that the LORD commanded Moses, so did they.

And, in the following verses of Num 3 we are given more information about the distribution of the sons of Levi (are not priests) around the tabernacle of the congregation and of their work assignments in it.

Num 3:5 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 3:6 Bring the tribe of Levi [the whole tribe of Levi, except Aaron and his sons, were not priests] near, and present them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister unto him.

Num 3:7 And they shall keep his charge, and the charge of the whole congregation before the tabernacle of the congregation, to do the service of the tabernacle.

Num 3:8 And they shall keep all the instruments of the tabernacle of the congregation, and the charge of the children of Israel, to do the service of the tabernacle.

Num 3:9 And thou shalt give the Levites unto Aaron and to his sons: they are wholly given unto him out of the children of Israel.

Num 3:10 And thou shalt appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall wait on their priest's office: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Num 3:11 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 3:12 And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine;

Num 3:13 Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed [set them apart, sanctified them] unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the LORD.

Num 3:14 And the LORD spake unto Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, saying,

Num 3:15 Number the children of Levi [are not priests] after the house of their fathers, by their families: every male from a month old and upward shalt thou number them.

Num 3:16 And Moses numbered them according to the word of the LORD, as he was commanded.

Num 3:17 And these were the sons of Levi [are not priests] by their names; **Gershon, and Kohath, and Merari.**

Num 3:18 And these are the names of the sons of **Gershon** by their families; Libni, and Shimei.

Num 3:19 And the sons of **Kohath** by their families; Amram, and Izehar, Hebron, and Uzziel.

Num 3:20 And the sons of **Merari** by their families; Mahli, and Mushi. These are the families of the Levites according to the house of their fathers.

Num 3:21 Of **Gershon** was the family of the Libnites, and the family of the Shimites: these are the families of the Gershonites.

Num 3:22 Those that were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, even those that were numbered of them were **seven thousand and five hundred.**

Num 3:23 The families of the **Gershonites** shall pitch behind the tabernacle **westward**.

Num 3:24 And the chief of the house of the father of the Gershonites shall be Eliasaph the son of Lael.

Num 3:25 And the charge [responsibility] of the sons of **Gershon** in the tabernacle of the congregation shall be the tabernacle, and the tent, the covering thereof, and the hanging for the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,

Num 3:26 And the hangings of the court, and the curtain for the door of the court, which is by the tabernacle, and by the altar round about, and the cords of it for all the service thereof.

Num 3:27 And of Kohath was the family of the Amramites, and the family of the Izeharites, and the family of the Hebronites, and the family of the Uzzielites: these are the families of the Kohathites.

Num 3:28 In the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, were **eight thousand and six hundred**, keeping the charge of the sanctuary.

Num 3:29 The families of the sons of **Kohath** shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle **southward**.

Num 3:30 And the chief of the house of the father of the families of the **Kohathites** shall be Elizaphan the son of Uzziel.

Num 3:31 And **their charge [responsibility] shall be** the ark, and the table, and the candlestick, and the altars, and the vessels of the sanctuary wherewith they minister, and the hanging, and all the service thereof.

Num 3:32 And **Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest** shall be chief over the chief of the Levites, and have the oversight of them that keep **the charge of the sanctuary**.

Num 3:33 Of Merari was the family of the Mahlites, and the family of the Mushites: these are the families of Merari.

Num 3:34 And those that were numbered of them, according to the number of all the males, from a month old and upward, were **six thousand and two hundred**.

Num 3:35 And the chief of the house of the father of the families of **Merari** was Zuriel the son of Abihail: these shall pitch on the side of the tabernacle **northward**.

Num 3:36 And under the **custody and charge [responsibility] of the sons of Merari shall be** the boards of the tabernacle, and the bars thereof, and the pillars thereof, and the sockets thereof, and all the vessels thereof, and all that serveth thereto,

Num 3:37 And the pillars of the court round about, and their sockets, and their pins, and their cords.

Num 3:38 But those that encamp before the tabernacle **toward the east**, even before the tabernacle of the congregation eastward, **shall be Moses, and Aaron and his sons**, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

Num 3:39 All that were numbered of the Levites, which Moses and Aaron numbered at the commandment of the LORD, throughout their families, all the males from a month old and upward, were twenty and two thousand.

Num 3:41 And thou shalt take the Levites for me (I am the LORD) instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel; and the cattle of the Levites instead of all the firstlings among the cattle of the children of Israel.

Num 3:45 Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the children of Israel, and the cattle of the Levites instead of their [those of the other tribes of Israel] cattle; and the Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD.

The non-priestly Levites were not given any part in the land but they had cattle so they must have had fields allocated to them as pasture for their cows, steers, bulls, and oxen though this is not specifically stated.

Num 18:21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi [are not priests] all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

God's part and inheritance for the Levites who were priests was His part of the offerings commanded by Him for Israel. There were burnt offerings, guilt offerings, trespass offerings, peace offerings, grain offerings and sin offerings. Please see Lev 1-7 for the detail of how these different types of offerings were made.

THE IMPORTANT POINT FOR US TO NOTICE IS THAT THE OFFERINGS COMMANDED BY GOD WERE NOT TITHES.

Israel was not required to give a tithe of their flocks, herds, crops, orchards and vineyards to Aaron and his sons.

But what is all the tenth in Israel given to the non-priestly Levites?

All the Tenth in Israel

We have just seen that the children of Levi, were tasked with the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. In the following verses of Number 18, we are given the significant difference in how the Levites who were priests and the non-priestly Levites were rewarded for their work.

Num 18:21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi [who are not priests] all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

This is a point of the greatest importance if we are to correctly understand the significant difference between what the Levites who were priests received from God and the ones who were not priests.

The priests were given GOD'S PART OF THE OFFERINGS of the people commanded in the law of offerings (See the first 7 chapters of Leviticus.) and the Levites who were not priests were given ALL THE TENTH IN ISRAEL.

The children of Aaron and Aaron who were priests, their inheritance from God was not tithes but God's part of the offerings commanded for Israel. These offerings were not tithes or a tenth of individual Israelite's herds, flocks, vineyards, orchards, etc.

What was the tenth given by God (Num 18:21) to the Levites who were not priests and how were they to be used?

The children of Israel were commanded to have a tithe for feast attendance requirements and a third year tithe.

Feast Attendance Tithe

Deu 16:16 Three times [seasons: spring, summer and fall] in a year shall all thy males appear before the LORD thy God in the place which he shall choose; in the feast of unleavened bread, [spring] and in the feast of weeks, [summer] and in the feast of tabernacles [fall]: and they shall not appear before the LORD empty:

Deu 12:17 Thou [the children of Israel] mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand:

Their feast attendance tithe was to be shared with others.

Deu 12:18 But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maid-servant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto.

Deu 16:11 And thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the **Levite that is within thy gates, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are among you**, in the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to place his name there.

And, the children of Israel could make freewill offerings and heave offerings (Deu 12: 17) from their feast attendance tithe to Aaron and his sons. They were not tithing but giving an offering from a part of their feast attendance tithe.

The Third Year Tithe

The third year tithe of the children of Israel was also to be shared with others.

Deu 26:12 When thou hast made an end of **tithing all the tithes** of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto **the Levite,[who are not priests] the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow**, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;

The Tithes of the Children of Israel

Num 18:24 But the tithes **[Israel was to keep a tithe for feast attendance and a tithe every 3rd year.]** of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering **[These 2 tithes were to be shared with the Levites who were priests as well as with other groups of Israelites: the fatherless, the widows and the strangers within their gates]** unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites **[who are not priests]** to inherit: Among the children of Israel they shall have **no inheritance**.

Let's continue reading Numbers 18.

Num 18:25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Num 18:26 Thus speak unto the Levites, **[the ones who are priests]** and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes **[Feast attendance and third year tithes which were to be shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widows and the strangers in their gates. These 2 tithes were not for the sole and exclusive use of the Levitical priests or of the Levites who were not priests]** which I have given you from them

for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an **heave offering** of it for the LORD, even **a tenth part of the tithe**.

When an offering to Aaron and his sons consisted of a part of the feast attendance tithe or of the third year tithe of the children of Israel, a tenth part of it was to be offered to God before the priests could use it for themselves and their families.

Num 18:27 And this your heave offering [**from the feast attendance tithe or the third year tithe which is given as freewill offering**] shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the wine-press.

Num 18:28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; [**the parts shared by the children of Israel from their feast attendance tithe or from their third year tithe with the Levites as a freewill offering**] and ye shall give thereof [**from it**] the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

Num 18:29 Out of all your gifts [**from the feast attendance and the third year tithe**] ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it.

Num 18:30 Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshingfloor, and as the increase of the winepress.

Num 18:31 And ye [**the Levites who are priests and their family**] shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is **your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation**.

The priests' work was done in the tabernacle of the congregation (the making of the offerings of the people) while the work done by the Levites who were not priests was maintaining and transporting the tabernacle when Israel moved from one place to another as required.

Recapitulation

So far, we have determined that only Aaron and his sons were the priests of OT Israel and that the other Levites were dedicated to the

maintenance of the tabernacle of the congregation. The priests lived from God's part of the offerings of the children of Israel commanded by God. **THESE OFFERINGS WERE NOT TITHES.**

We also learned that the Levites who maintained the tabernacle of the congregation had cattle (cows, steers, bulls, oxen) which they likely used as food for themselves and their families though there are no Bible verses that confirm this but why else would they keep such animals. As Levites they shared in the feast attendance tithe and in the third year tithe of the children of Israel — the other 11 tribes — and this is clear in the Scriptures. The important thing for us to notice is that the non-priestly Levites only SHARED in the tithes of the children of Israel; they did not receive the whole feast attendance tithe or the whole third year tithe.

The conclusion that can be reached from this information is that there was no tithe commanded by God for the exclusive use of the Levitical priesthood. Their reward for the work they did was God's part of the offerings commanded for the children of Israel and some minimal sharing in the tithes of the children of Israel which were given as offerings.

It follows that the OT Levitical priesthood cannot be the basis for affirming that in New Testament times, there is a God commanded requirement to pay a tithe to men claiming to be true ministers of God's church.

Let's now review how God's church changed after Christ's First Coming to Israel.

God's NT Spiritual Nation or Church

God's physical OT Church in the wilderness and its descendants remain unconverted unto this day. Its mediator between them and God was Moses, a priesthood of men existed to offer sacrifices on behalf of the people, the people's trespasses or sins were forgiven on a ceremonial basis only, God's law was written on stone tablets kept in the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies, and God resided in the inner tent of the tabernacle of the congregation, the holy of holies. For certain trespasses there were no atoning sacrifice in the law and the perpetrator died such as in the case for rape, fornication, adultery and murder. Once OT Israel entered the Promised Land there was a physical temple. One became part of God's church in the wilderness by being born into it. Ancient Israel was a physical and visible nation in the world.

God's NT Church's spiritual nation of Israel's high priest is Christ who is after the order of Melchisedec (Christ, an immortal being).

Heb 7:17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 7:22 By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.

Heb 7:26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

The members of God's spiritual nation called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father are God's holy nation and royal priesthood

1Pe 2:9 But ye [truly converted Christians] are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an **holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: [God's church and future kingdom] which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

They are the living sacrifices of God's spiritual nation every day dying to their old life of sin (their old man) and striving to live in newness of life (the new man).

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that **our old man** is crucified with him, [Christ] that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. [A life of obeying God as best we can.]

Truly converted Christians are God's spiritual creature or creation.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Gal 6:15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any

thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.

A change in attitude from one of hostility to God to one of wanting to obey Him in all things as best we can. Being circumcised or not means nothing. What God wants from members of His spiritual nation is their obedience.

They are the lively or living stones of God's temple.

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, [God's temple] an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

The members of God's NT spiritual nation are the living stones of God's temple, they are God's holy priesthood offering themselves daily as living sacrifices dying, spiritually speaking, to their old lives of sin and striving to walk in newness of life which is trying to obey God as best they can.

All members of God's NT spiritual nation are holy priests of God.

Their bodies are the temple of God,

1Co 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [holy spirit God the Word] which is in you, which ye have of God, [the holy spirit God the Father] and ye are not your own?

The only mediator between them and God is Jesus-Christ.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

God's law is written in their hearts (minds), it is God's government in their lives.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jer 31:34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity,

and I will remember their sin no more.

They become part of God's spiritual nation by being called and chosen by God the Father and remaining faithful to their calling (Rev 17:14).

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. [Christ who is now the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.]

The teachers of God's spiritual nation or church are the holy spirit God the Father while being called and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman upon acceptance of God the Father's calling.

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Christians obey God because they have freely, willingly and knowingly chosen to do so when called by the holy spirit God the Father.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

God commands man to choose and for him to be able to do so there can be no power in the universe that can force him to choose something against his will. All men are created with absolute free moral agency. No man can be forced to believe something he has not chosen to believe. For God to be able to hold men responsible for the decision they make unto life or death, they must be completely free to choose.

Those who are called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father are then taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Joh 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye [the disciples] know him; for he [I, Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [And all true Christians throughout the ages after the day of Pentecost.]

Joh 14:18 I [Christ] will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. [On the day of Pentecost and to all truly converted Christians. Christ is the Comforter who comes to all truly converted Christians.]

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

God calls mostly the little people of the world to be His NT spiritual church.

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

Truly converted Christians have no commission individually or as a group to preach the Gospel to the unconverted world. The Gospel is spiritual knowledge which the carnal minded always reject. The Gospel is not the means used by God to call men to salvation and the Great Commission was given only to the apostles by Christ Himself. No man can all of a sudden decide he has a mission to preach the Gospel. Apostles were appointed by Christ. No man or organization of men has the authority to appoint apostles. The Bible contains no examples of men appointing other men apostles.

God's spiritual nation is God's little flock.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

They are a little flock because:

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

They are not chosen because they don't follow their calling and choose to remain in the world.

And, of the few who are chosen Christ tells us that is the few who remain converted.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The members of God's NT spiritual nation live invisibly among the unconverted nations of the world.

Conversion is a change in attitude from one of being hostile to God to one of wanting to obey Him in all things as best we can. This is something which is not outwardly visible to others; it is something that occurs in the mind. Can you tell in a crowd who are the truly converted Christians? If you are being honest, you know you can't. God's little flock is invisible to the world.

The members of God's NT spiritual nation of Israel are its holy and royal priesthood, its sacrifice, its temple and God's family, people, nation and kingdom in embryo. They are taught by God the Father while being called and if they follow their calling they are then taught all things by God the Word and Spokesman.

They were called to demonstrate to God their desire to obey Him in all things as best they can. God's spiritual nation is invisible in the world and its members for the greatest part do not know each other. God's saints live invisibly among the unconverted and being invisible to each other, cannot gather to become large organizations visible to the world.

Their challenge is to grow the knowledge and understanding given them at the time of their calling by their personal study of God's word, the holy Bible. And, they are to grow in the perfect holy righteous character of Christ as much as they can. Whenever it happens that other truly converted Christians are known, they are then to have spiritual fellowship with them which God calls prophesying.

1Th 5:20 Despise not prophesying.

1Co 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

This topic has been fully covered starting on page 14 of the following study available on this site: [Who CAN Feed the Flock?](#)

God the Father at the time of our calling gives us the information we need to choose between life and death. If we choose life then the holy spirit God the Word teaches us all things as we study God's word, the holy Bible.

God's plan of salvation for mankind is administered by the holy spirits of the God family, God the Father and God the Word and its success does not depend, in any way, on men.

Christ is the author and finisher of the salvation of God the Father's called and chosen ones; not men.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

God's NT Church is spiritual because its members are called by God and taught by God the Word with no men being their teachers as they don't have the knowledge nor the ability to give them understanding of the Scriptures.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. [\[in understanding\]](#)

All can have knowledge of the Scriptures but its correct understanding is only from God. And, when we have understanding we then have knowledge of the holy which is impossible for unconverted men to have.

Pro 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the [knowledge of the holy is understanding](#).

There are several studies on this web site where detailed explanations are given about the spiritual nature of God's NT church.

[God's Church is Spiritual](#) ["God's Church Today"](#) ["Who Can Feed the Flock?"](#) and ["God's Church after its Scattering."](#)

It would make this current study too lengthy for me to repeat it all here.

Now, we are ready to come to a determination of whether tithing is a requirement in God's NT church.

Will a Man Rob God

Malachi 3:8 is one of the main, if not the main Scripture, used by the many “churches of God” to convince those who follow them that there are required to pay them a tithe to support the “Work” they say they have to do, of preaching the Gospel to the world.

Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

A first thing to notice is that the book of Malachi is addressed to the OT never converted, physical nation of Israel.

Mal 1:1 The burden of the word of the LORD [to Israel](#) by Malachi.

This nation of Israel and the Levitical priesthood of Aaron ended with the destruction of the 2nd temple and of the physical nation of Israel. The Jews (tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) rebelled against the Roman authorities wanting to become a sovereign nation like they used to be. The Roman armies came, besieged Jerusalem and ultimately destroyed it and killed most of its inhabitants. The survivors scattered all over the world and did not become a nation until the establishment of the modern-day nation of Israel following the end of the Second World War. Please note that the Jews only represent a part of the physical nation of Israel; there are 10 other tribes which have yet to be reunited with Judah (the combined tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) to make Israel complete.

However, the physical nation of Israel in NT times is no longer God's chosen nation.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, [\[a member of God's nation of Israel\]](#) which is one outwardly; [\[physical appearance\]](#) neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; [\[a state of mind; an attitude of obedience to God in all things\]](#) and circumcision is that of the heart [\[the mind; a changed attitude, one of wanting to obey God in all things\]](#), in the spirit, [\[whose obedience is in accordance with the spirit of God's law\]](#) and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, [\[obeys not to please men but God regardless of what other men may think or say\]](#) but of God.

Those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father are given understanding of the spirit or principle of the law and can apply it to different situations in their lives.

In order to become part of God's church, it is necessary to first be called by the holy spirit God the Father and then we must follow God's calling to become chosen.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Who are those who are being called?

Act 10:45 And they of the circumcision [the Jews, Israelites] which believed [who were converted] were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Christianity when it started was Jewish. Christ was born a Jew, a descendant of the house of David and at His First Coming, He came to the captives of the Southern Kingdom (the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah who collectively were known as the Jews) who had been allowed to return to Jerusalem from their captivity among the Persians by King Xerxes to rebuild its walls and to build the second temple. The Jews were part of the 12 tribe nation of Israel. Israel was God's chosen people in the Old Testament. The other nations of the world were called Gentiles and Israel would not have any contact with them as they were not part of God's chosen people.

God showed Peter, the chief apostle and the other converts who accompanied him, that salvation was also opened up to the Gentiles and that those coming to conversion were to be accepted as being one of them. **GOD'S NATION WOULD NOW INCLUDE ANYONE BECOMING CONVERTED FROM ANY AND ALL NATIONS OF THE WORLD.**

In NT times, God's nation is composed of individuals from the nations of the world who for the very greatest part have no historical connection to the OT physical nation of Israel.

And, God's NT spiritual nation is not an organization of men nor the doing of any man or organization of men. God the Father calls and God the Word teaches. No man can call another man. Being called is a one time great miracle from God who opens the minds of those being called to receive and not immediately reject spiritual truth which in the past they had always rejected.

The correct understanding of the Scriptures is from God; not men.

In OT times, there was no command from God for the children of Israel to give 10% of their herds, flocks, vineyards, orchards and fields to the Aaron and his sons who were the only ones who were priests. They would have been overwhelmed with livestock and food they could not possibly use. And, they had no part in the land and God did not want them tending herds and flocks. Their sole work was to offer the sacrifices of the children of Israel brought to the tabernacle of the congregation.

There was no requirement for Israel to have a tithe for the exclusive use of Aaron and his sons. Israel was commanded to make several different types of offerings and God's part of these offerings is what was given to Aaron and his sons.

Israel was to keep a tithe for feast attendance and a tithe every third year and both were not for their exclusive use but had to be shared with the Levites who were not priests, the fatherless, the widows and the strangers in their gates.

These were the tithes and the offerings OT Israel was to keep. However, as stated in Mal 3:8, Israel was not faithful in doing so and this is why God says they were robbing him in tithes and offerings. Mal 3:8 therefore cannot be used as the justification for saying that NT Christians have to pay a full tithe to organizations of men claiming to be true representatives of God.

There was no requirement to do so in the OT and there is even less of a requirement to do so in the NT. God's NT church is spiritual. It is a process that goes on in the mind and starts when first being called by God the Father and then taught by God the Word. It is by the sharing of thoughts from their minds to our minds that it is possible to have a correct understanding of the Scriptures as we study God's holy Bible our only sure source of truth.

God's spiritual nation is all those called, chosen and faithful wherever they may be in the world by themselves or in little groups who are growing in knowledge and understanding and in the grace of Christ as they study God's holy Bible. It is not organizations of men who are making themselves as visible as they can to the world to attract as many followers as they can to increase the amount of money they get from them to finance the purchase of large properties on which they build impressive and luxurious buildings, travel the world on their personal executive jets and pay themselves and their enablers large salaries.

If this is how true men of God live and riches are the result of being ministers of God shouldn't Jesus have been living in royal splendor and have been accompanied in His travels by servants eager to provide for His every need? Shouldn't He have been living in luxurious houses abundantly supplied with the best food?

Luk 9:57 And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.

Luk 9:58 And Jesus said unto him, **Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.**

Final Thoughts

The studies posted on this Web site are expressly not for the purpose of developing a following that I can financially exploit and I am not claiming to have absolute truth that all are to believe. No one has the truth Christ taught His disciples. All any true Christian can be is a student of God's holy Bible with the holy spirits of the God family giving him understanding of the spiritual truth it contains.

There can be no great and infallible teacher of God's truth whose words all are to uncritically accept. Salvation is a process between you and your Bible and God not between you, an organization of men calling itself "church of God" and God. God's NT church is spiritual. It is something that goes on in the mind between God's mind and your mind. It is not through the observance of physical rituals whether they be those of ancient Israel or those devised by men claiming to be ministers of God's one, true church. God's NT church is spiritual not a physical organization of men.

My one and only intention is for these studies to be a means of having spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians. It is most likely I will never know any of those who may chance upon these studies and this is not of any importance. My only hope is that they will be of some use to some of those who will read some of them. I very strongly encourage everybody to prove all things with their Bible and if anything I have written is proven to be wrong, then by all means DON'T believe it.

Do study, prophesy (have spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians when some are known) and always prove all things, reject what is false and do keep what is good.