

Tithing in New Testament Times

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By Robert G. Theophilus

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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.

Is the system of tithes and offerings instituted by God for the Old Testament (OT) Levitical priesthood of Aaron applicable to God's New Testament (NT) Church? There are huge differences between God's OT never converted physical nation of Israel and His NT spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church made up only of those called and chosen of God who are remaining faithful. Let's examine if those differences impact the tithing system.

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 (Php 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 o 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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The topic of tithes and offerings is of great importance to the many different religious organizations of men who say, truly or not, that they draw their doctrines from the pages of God's holy Bible.

They generally say that those they teach have been given the responsibility by God Himself to financially support them. Many of them see themselves as having been commissioned to do a "work" for God: the proclamation to the world of the Gospel which some consider to be the means used by God to bring men to salvation.

Are the many different Christian organizations of men including those who say they are a "church of God," entitled to be financially supported by tithes and offerings from their followers? Is the Old Testament (OT) law of offerings instituted by God for the tribe of Levi applicable to God's New Testament (NT) spiritual nation of Israel. Is this spiritual nation a highly visible group of men organized according to the administrative, financial and legal requirements of this world? Does God have more than one true church?

In order to come to a fully biblically-based answer to these questions, it will be necessary, with an open mind, to do a careful review of what God's Word, the holy Bible tells us about these matters. The Bible is the only sure standard of truth for Christians, not men. All truly converted Christians who are remaining faithful have the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman opening their mind to understand the spiritual truth of

God. All true Christians are commanded by God to prove all things and to have growth in knowledge and understanding by spending time in quality study of their Bible.

Do you want to know if you continue to be a live spiritual embryo which can be born again at the time of Christ's Second Coming? If you are remaining spiritually alive then from year to year, you will have grown in knowledge and understanding of God's spiritual truth. A no-growth Christian is a dead Christian spiritually speaking. As always, God leaves you entirely free as to what you will do.

Directly related to the topic of tithing is determining what is God's Church in NT times and just as importantly, we will need to determine how God is proceeding to preach the Gospel in all the world as a witness to all nations.

As truly converted Christians, we must be seeking God's truth and accept to be corrected by it whenever it is discovered that previous teachings we were exposed to, and beliefs we personally had before our conversion, were in error. Refusing to accept God's correction is stubbornness which God says is idolatry; we then attach more importance to our beliefs than to the truth of God. The idol we then follow and worship is ourselves.

1Sa 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

If we refuse God's chastening, that is to be corrected by the truth He gives us, we become bastards spiritually speaking, God is no longer our Father and, we cease to be part of God's Church.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

The scourging spoken about here is not an actual physical beating but something that can be as painful. It is having to abandon one or more of our cherished and so important to us, personal beliefs when we come to understand that they are contrary to God's truth. Having to do so can be as painful as being scourged and many are those who do not endure God's chastening.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, [refuse to be corrected by the truth] whereof all are partakers, to [all of us have had false beliefs that needed corrections] then are ye bastards, and not sons.

In other words, if you don't accept to be corrected by the truth when it is given to you because it would be too painful for you to abandon your personal but erroneous beliefs, then you are no longer a son of God. You have lost your salvation. Your salvation depends upon you remaining teachable which means you are ready to change what you believe when proven wrong by the Bible.

Does that describe you?

Let's start our review of what the Bible says about tithing by going back to the Old Testament (OT) where we find information about tithing in the different sacrifices and offerings commanded by God for ancient Israel.

The Inheritance of the Levites

When Old Testament (OT) Israel finally came into possession of the Promised Land, God chose one of the tribes of Israel to be responsible for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. This was a tent that God came to when He talked to Moses. There was a fenced area which enclosed it and created a courtyard (Ex 27:9) which contained the altar of burnt offerings and the bronze laver.

Exo 27:9 And thou shalt make the court of the tabernacle: for the south side southward there shall be hangings for the court of fine twined linen of an hundred cubits long for one side:

The Israelites brought their offerings to the door of the tabernacle of the congregation where it was killed.

Lev 1:3 If his offering be a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish: he shall offer it of his own voluntary will at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD.

Lev 1:4 And he shall put his hand upon the head of the burnt offering; and it shall be accepted for him to make atonement for him.

The guilt of the offender was symbolically transferred to the animal by the offender putting his hand on its head. The animal was then accepted by God as a way of removing the offender's guilt by it being put to death instead of the offender.

Lev 1:5 **And he shall kill the bullock before the LORD:** and the priests, Aaron's sons, shall bring the blood, and sprinkle the blood round about upon **the altar that is by the door** of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The wages of sin is the death of the transgressor unless there is a sacrifice that forgives sin.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. **[God's perfect sacrifice for sin.]**

For a detailed description of the tabernacle of the congregation and of what it contained, please read through Exo 25-27.

The tribe of Levi was made responsible for doing the work of dismantling, transporting and setting up the tabernacle of the congregation when God had Israel move from one place to another during the 40 years it spent in the desert as well as for its maintenance once Israel entered the Promised Land. Aaron and his sons, were the priests of the tribe of Levi who were responsible for presenting to God the offerings and sacrifices of the people and for ministering before the tabernacle of witness.

Deu 10:8 At that time the LORD **separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, to stand before the LORD to minister unto him,** and to bless in his name, unto this day.

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.**

Aaron and his sons served in the tabernacle of the congregation and the other Levites were responsible for its maintenance and transportation as required. All the tribe of Levi was dedicated by God for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. Because of this requirement, the Levites were not given any part in the Promised Land as were the other

tribes. This means they were not allocated lands on which they could raise animals, fields in which they could grow crops and areas where they could have orchards and vineyards. God wanted them to dedicate their time to the tabernacle of the congregation.

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.

Deu 10:9 Wherefore Levi hath no part nor inheritance with his brethren; **the LORD is his inheritance**, according as the LORD thy God promised him.

Since the Levites did not have any part of the Promised Land where they could raise crops and animals to feed and clothe themselves and take care of their families, God says He is their part and inheritance in the land.

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

All the Levites were dedicated to the service of the tabernacle of the congregation but **only** Aaron and his sons were allowed by God to work in the tabernacle of the congregation as of all the Levites, they were the **only** ones who were priests. (Num 18:5)

Num 18:3 And they 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.

Num 18:4 And they **[the other Levites]** shall be joined unto thee, **[Aaron and his sons]** 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, and the charge of the altar: that there be no wrath **[from God]** any more upon the children of Israel.

Num 18:6 And I, behold, I have taken your brethren the Levites from among the children of Israel: to you [Israel] they [the Levites] are given as a gift for the LORD, to do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

The whole tribe of Levi was involved in providing different services for the tabernacle of the congregation but only Aaron and his sons were to minister in the sanctuary.

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.

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; [the part of their offerings that was God's; the heave offering] unto thee have I given them by reason of the anointing, [as priests] and to thy sons, by an ordinance for ever.

Aaron and his sons were responsible for heaving before God, that part of the offerings made by Israel that was God's part.

Num 18:9 This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire [the heave offering was not burnt]: 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.

There were also other parts of the offerings that were not burnt as they were for those Levites who were not priests. And, the rest of the offering not used by the Levites was burnt outside the camp.

Num 18:10 In the most holy place shalt thou [Aaron and his sons] 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.

Please note as this is very important, the heave offerings and all the wave offerings were God's part of the offerings commanded by God for Israel. God gave them to Aaron and his sons, who were the priests in the tribe of Levi. Israel was not required to give a tithe of all they produced to the priests of Israel. God gave them His part of the sacrifices and offerings He had commanded for Israel (See Lev Chapters 1-7). None of these sacrifices and offerings were a 10th of all the Israelites produced.

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 [that are given as an offering as commanded by God; it was not a tithe] unto the LORD, them have I given thee. [Aaron and his sons or family]

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

Num 18:14 Every thing devoted [to God, or given to God in an offering] in Israel shall be thine. [God's portion of it: the heave offering and the wave offering.]

Num 18:15 Every thing that openeth the matrix [the womb] in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, [as an offering] 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 clean animals were to be offered to God and the priests were to have their part of it, the heave or the wave offering depending on the sacrifice, but the firstborn of men and unclean beasts [they were not to be eaten] were to be redeemed.

God allowed them to be redeemed which is to say to no longer have to be put to death by money being given the priests. The cost of the redemption was five shekels as indicated in the following verse.

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 [first born] 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 [the firstling of a cow, sheep and goat] shall be thine, [Aaron and his sons] as the wave breast and as the right shoulder are thine.

All the flesh (meat) of the sacrifices who were firstlings were given to Aaron and his sons not just the part of the animal that was either heaved or waived depending on the type animal being sacrificed.

Num 18:19 All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer 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 with thee.

For the other animals sacrifices who were not firstlings, God gave Aaron and his sons, the part of the animal used to do the heave or the wave offering which was God's part of the sacrifice which He gave to them.

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.

Num 18:21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

In this last verse, God is no longer only talking about what He has given to Aaron and his sons but of the things He is giving to the children of Levi or to all the Levites.

Israel was required to keep a tenth of their produce and animals for when they attended God's feast days (the Sabbath and the annual feasts) and they were required to keep another tithe every 3 years. Both of these tithes were to be shared with the fatherless, the widows, the strangers in their gates and with the children of Levi which includes Aaron and his sons and all other Levites who were not priests.

Deu 14:29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the

widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.

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. [[Feast attendance tithe](#)]

Deu 16:14 And thou shalt rejoice in thy feast, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the [Levite](#), the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, that are within thy gates. [[Feast attendance tithe](#)]

All the tenth in Israel refers to the 2 tithes commanded by God for the 11 other tribes of Israel. One was to be kept every third year and the other was to be used for feast attendance and both of them were to be shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers that were within their gates.

God did not command Israel to pay a specific tithe to Him nor to those of the tribe of Levi who were priests, Aaron and His sons. Israel was commanded to give offerings to God and these offerings were not a tenth part or a tithe of all they produced. If an Israelite had 100 sheep, he didn't have to give 10% of them to the Levites. Israel was required to tithe but their tithes they kept were to be used on themselves for feast attendance and shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers that were in their gates.

Both tithes commanded by God were not to be fully given to Aaron and his sons who were the priests. Both of them were to be shared with all the Levites as they had no part in the land and with the fatherless, the widow and the strangers that were within their gates.

No one person or group of persons in Israel received a full tenth or tithe of what Israel produced. Aaron and his sons who were the priest of the Levitical tribe were given God's part of the sacrifices commanded by God for Israel. God's part was not a tenth of what Israel produced but the part of the sacrifices of the children of Israel that was heaved or waived by the priests. The commanded offerings were not in any way a tithe of all Israel produced.

Let's continue reading Num 18.

Num 18:22 Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die.

Only the Levites could come near the tabernacle of the congregation; any other Israelite would die if he did. The tabernacles of the congregation had been set up outside the camp of Israel because God did not want to remain among them in case they would do something that would cause His fury to rise against them and He would destroy them. He didn't take lightly their disobedience. (Ex 32:7-10; 33:5-7)

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

Num 18:24 But the tithes [the tithe used for feast attendance and the third year tithe of which the Levites are given only a share] of the children of Israel, which they [the priests] offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites [who are priests] to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they [the Levites who are priests] shall have no inheritance.

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

Num 18:26 Thus speak unto the Levites, [those who are priests] and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes [the one the other tribes used for feast attendance and the one which is saved every 3 years; they only shared in them, they did not get all of them for their exclusive use] 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.

Those parts of the feast attendance tithe and of the third year tithe saved by Israel and which was shared with the Levitical priesthood, first had to be heaved before God before Aaron and his sons could eat of them. Recall that Israel was to share the 2 tithes they kept with the Levites as well as with the fatherless, the widow and the strangers within their gates.

Israel was not required to give a specific and complete tithe to the Levites who were priests.

This sharing of parts of the feast attendance tithe and of the third year tithe with the Levitical priesthood occurred throughout the year so as to provide the Levites with a continuous supply of food along with the many other kinds of offerings Israel was commanded to make as described in the first 7 chapters of the book of Leviticus.

They were shared with the priesthood, the fatherless, the widows, the strangers within their gates and [the Levites](#). It was not a one time giving of the full feast attendance tithe or of the third year tithe. It would have then been impossible for the food to be eaten before it spoiled as there would have been so much of it. The 2 tithes commanded by God were not the giving of money but of things to eat and drink (animals, fruits, vegetables, wine).

Israel had money, the shekel and the gerah but money was not given to the Levites except when it was necessary to redeem the firstborn or firstling of unclean animals and the firstborn of man.

Num 18:15 Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, [\[as an offering\]](#) 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.

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.

The Levitical priests were given God's part of the offerings brought to the tabernacle of the congregations by the people. God's part was the part of their offerings that was heaved before Him; certain other parts of the offerings were kept for the Levites who were not priests and the rest of the offerings were burnt outside the camp of the Israelites.

Let's continue reading Numbers 18.

Num 18:27 And this your heave offering [\[God's part of the offerings that was given to Aaron and his sons\]](#) shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

Num 18:28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, [\[the parts shared with the Aaron and his sons of the tithes the people were to keep for their attendance](#)

to the feasts and the one kept every 3 years] which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

Num 18:29 Out of all your gifts 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 [Aaron and his sons] shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 18:32 And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

Now let's look at an example of how offerings were made. In this instance, it is a peace offering. (The first 7 chapters of Leviticus give us information on what is involved in making the many other offerings commanded by God.)

Lev 7:28 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Lev 7:29 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, He that offereth the sacrifice of his peace offerings unto the LORD shall bring his oblation [offering] unto the LORD of the sacrifice of his peace offerings.

Lev 7:30 His own hands shall bring the offerings of the LORD made by fire, the fat with the breast, it shall he bring, that the breast may be waved for a wave offering before the LORD.

Lev 7:31 And the priest shall burn the fat upon the altar: but the breast shall be Aaron's and his sons'.

Lev 7:32 And the right shoulder shall ye give unto the priest for an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.

Lev 7:33 He among the sons of Aaron, that offereth the blood of the peace offerings, and the fat, shall have the **right shoulder** for his part.

Lev 7:34 For the **wave breast** and the **heave shoulder** have I **[God]** taken of the children of Israel from off the sacrifices of their peace offerings, and **[I, God] have given them unto Aaron the priest and unto his sons** by a statute for ever from among the children of Israel.

Lev 7:35 This is the portion of the anointing of Aaron, and of the anointing of his sons, out of the offerings of the LORD made by fire, in the day when he presented them to minister unto the LORD in the priest's office;

Lev 7:36 Which the LORD commanded to be given them of the children of Israel, in the day that he anointed them, by a statute for ever throughout their generations.

Lev 7:37 This is the law of the burnt offering, of the meat offering, and of the sin offering, and of the trespass offering, and of the consecrations, and of the sacrifice of the peace offerings;

Lev 7:38 Which the LORD commanded Moses in mount Sinai, in the day that he commanded the children of Israel to offer their oblations unto the LORD, in the wilderness of Sinai.

Deuteronomy — Second Giving of the Law

In the 18th chapter of the book of Deuteronomy, we are given more information about the commission God gave Aaron and his sons.

Although, some of the information is the same as in the book of Numbers, other details are added that allow us to gain a better understanding of what the Levites did and of what they received for the work they did. So, we will go through all of it.

Deu 18:1 The priests the Levites **[Aaron and his sons]**, and all the tribe of Levi, shall have no part nor inheritance with Israel: **they shall eat the offerings of the LORD made by fire**, and his inheritance

The heave offering from the people's offerings was specifically for Aaron and his sons and the rest of the offering that was not burnt was for the Levites who were not priests.

Deu 18:2 Therefore shall they [The tribe of Levi as a whole.] have no inheritance among their brethren: the LORD is their inheritance, as he hath said unto them.

And, in the following verse, God starts listing those things that Aaron and his sons specifically were to receive from the sacrifice offered by the people.

Deu 18:3 And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, [the 2 back legs] and the maw [the first stomach of a ruminant such as a cow].

The priest in Deu 18:3 here is Aaron and not the tribe of Levi as a whole.

Deu 18:4 The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.

Let's continue reviewing more OT Scriptures that will help us to come to a correct determination of just what was the reward given by God to the tribe of Levi and, specifically, to Aaron and his sons.

The Levites who were not priests were to maintain the tabernacle of the congregation and only Aaron and his sons could minister to God in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Deu 10:8 At that time the LORD separated the tribe of Levi, to bear the ark of the covenant of the LORD, [except Aaron and his sons who served in the tabernacle of the congregation] to stand before the LORD to minister unto him [this was the work specifically given to Aaron and his sons], and to bless in his name, unto this day.

Deu 31:9 And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel.

In the enclosure of the tabernacle of the congregation there was the tent of witness which was a tent in which the first part contained the table of showbread, the altar of incense, and the lampstand. This part of the tent was called the holy and was separated by a veil from the other part of the tent which contained the ark of the covenant. That part was called the holy of holies and only the high priest could enter it once a year on the Day of Atonement.

Num 18:21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

As was previously explained, the tenth in Israel refers to the 2 tithes commanded by God for the 11 other tribes of Israel. One was to be kept every third year and was to be used for feast attendance and both of them were to be shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers that were within their gates.

Jos 13:14 Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance [in the land]; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them.

In this verse, God is talking about what the Levites who were priests received, the heave and wave offerings of the sacrifice brought to the tabernacle of the congregation by the children of Israel.

Jos 13:33 But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not any inheritance: the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as he said unto them.

The sons of Levi (the tribe of Levi) were given responsibility for the tabernacle of the congregation of Israel but only Aaron and his sons were to be responsible for offering the sacrifices brought by the people to the tabernacle of the congregation.

All the Levites were to live off God's part of the offerings brought by the other tribes of Israel to the tabernacle of the congregation as well as from their sharing in the 2nd and 3rd tithes.

All the Tenth in Israel

Israel was commanded to make several different types of offerings. There were sin offerings, trespass offerings, peace offerings, grain offerings, burnt offerings, meat offerings, wave offerings, heave offerings, etc. (See Lev 1-7)

The Levites were given all the tenth in Israel (Num 18:21). It was given to them as an inheritance from God because they had no part in the land.

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.

Jos 13:14 Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance;

the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them.

Num 18:21 And, behold, I have given the children of Levi [all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance](#), for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

What is all the tenth God gave to the children of Levi?

Israel was to save a tithe for the keeping of the annual and weekly holy days and, every third year, they were to save another tithe. Both the tithes for feast celebrations and the one saved during the 3rd year were to be shared with the widows, the fatherless, the strangers that were in their gates [and the Levites](#).

Deu 14:29 And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest. [\[3rd year tithe\]](#)

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](#), the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; [\[3rd year tithe\]](#)

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. [\[Feast attendance tithe\]](#)

And, what is the inheritance of the children of Levi who were priests (Aaron and his sons)?

Num 18:24 [But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit](#): therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. [\[in the land\]](#)

The feast attendance tithe and the tithe every 3 years was shared with the Levites and others as we have already seen. When Aaron and his sons received a part of it, they had to offer a heave offering of it unto the Lord and the heave offering was God's part which God gave to Aaron and his sons.

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

Num 18:26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye [Aaron and his sons] take of [a part of] the children of Israel the tithes [the feast attendance tithe and the tithe every 3 years] 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.

A Tenth Part of the Tithe

As we have seen Israel was to keep a tithe for feast attendance and another tithe every third year. These tithes were to be shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers that were among their gates. These tithes were from their flocks and their herds and from their fields and vineyards. This is a process that went on all through the year and at the time of God's weekly and annual feast day. Some of the feast day tithe kept by the people was used for themselves and some was used for the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers within their gates at the time the feast days were celebrated. The tithe kept every third year was shared throughout the year with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers within their gates. These were the tithes the Levites received spoken of in Num 18:26.

When the tithes of the people were shared with the Levites who were priests, it was not all the tithes kept by the people. The people's tithes, the 2 of them, were shared with others as we have seen and their sharing was not administered by the Levites.

What the priests received was a share of the people's 2 tithes, not all of them. And, of the part of the people's tithes they received, a wave offering had to be made of it. After, an offering was made for God of a tenth of the tithe received from the people, Aaron and his sons could then eat of the wave or of the heave offering made from the part of the tithe received from the people.

This is why the Bible talks about a "tenth part of the tithe" which is to say a tenth part of the tithe of the people (the other 11 tribes of Israel) that was shared with the Levites. Not all of the people's tithes were shared with the Levites.

God did not command Israel to give the Levites a tithe of all they produced. The Levites only shared, along with others, in the people's feast attendance tithe and in the one kept every three years.

The Levites and the priests among them were sustained by the many offerings God commanded Israel to make and by participating in the sharing of the feast attendance tithe and of the third year tithe of the children of Israel.

The Offerings

God commanded Israel to make sacrifices and offerings and the priests were to take God's part of these sacrifices and offerings for themselves. These are: "the sacrifices of the Lord God made by fire." (Jos 13:14) If the offering was an animal then the following parts of the animal were kept ".....the shoulder, and the two cheeks, [the 2 back legs] and the maw [the first stomach of a ruminant such as a cow]." (Deu 18:3)

A heave offering was then to be made of God's part of the offering; in the case of a peace offering it was the following part of the animal that was used to do the heave offering:

Lev 7:32 And the right shoulder shall ye give unto the priest for an heave offering of the sacrifices of your peace offerings.

The right shoulder was given to the priest for their use but before they could use it, a heave offering of it was to be made. For each of the offerings commanded by God there was a part of it that was God's part and it was the part that was given to the Levites who were priests. God did not require that Israel give a tithe of all they produced to the priests of the tribe of Levi. If an Israelite had a herd of 100 sheep, he was not required to give 10 of them to the Levitical priesthood.

The tithes the Levites received from the people were only parts of the 2 tithes commanded for Israel by God. They were only one of 3 other groups who also received a share of these 2 tithes.

Aaron was to offer up to God a 10th (see last part of Num 18:26) of God's part of an offering that was from the children of Israel when the people shared part of their feast attendance tithe and some of their third year tithe with the Levitical priests.

Num 18:26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes [of the 2 tithes Israel was commanded to keep] which I have given you from them [the children of Israel] for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.

Num 18:27 And this your heave offering [the part of the people's offering that was God's part] shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.

God's part of the sacrifices and offerings of the people given by God to the priests were to be considered as though they were the result of the Levites having crops and animals. Therefore, the priests had to offer to God a 10th of God's part of the offerings and sacrifices they received from the children of Israel. (Num 18:26)

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; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

The Levitical priesthood as previously explained only shared in the children of Israel's feast attendance tithe and in the third year tithe. And, as we have just seen, they were not wholly and exclusively given to Aaron and his sons; many others also shared in them. The priests did not receive several different tithes from the people which were wholly dedicated to their use. What they received were a share of the 2 tithes commanded by God for the children of Israel

Num 18:29 Out of all your gifts 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.

Aaron was given God's part of the offerings (the heave offering) and the Levites who are not priests, got the remainder of the parts of the offerings which were not heaved before God and not burnt outside the camp.

What God gave to the Levites who were not priests if the offering of the people was an ox or a sheep was, according to Deu 18:3, the 2 back legs, the shoulder and the stomach. Aaron was given the part of the offering that was used to do the heave offering (Num 18: 28).

Num 18:31 And ye [Aaron] shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation.

Num 18:32 And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.

The Levites could eat certain parts of the people's offerings from their 2 tithes as previously indicated and Aaron and his sons could eat the heave offering which was God's part of the offering that He gave to them. God's part of the offerings and sacrifices were considered to be holy and the Levites whom God allowed to use them were to make sure they didn't pollute them by not following God's command as to who could eat them.

What these verses of Exodus and Deuteronomy make clear is that God did not command Israel to give the Levitical priesthood a tithe of all they produced. The Levites only received a share of the feast attendance tithe and of the tithe kept every 3 years which the people did on their own initiative as commanded by God. The Levites did not administer a tithing system over the people. Additionally, God commanded Israel to make several different offerings. Of each of these offerings God had a part for Himself. That was the part that the high priest heaved (lifted up before the LORD) offering it to Him. The part of the offering used to make the heave or the wave offering was given specifically to Aaron and his household. The rest of the offering that is the 2 back legs, the shoulder and the maw was given to the Levites who were not priests and the remainder of the animal was burnt outside the camp of the Israelites.

Israel was very clearly never commanded to give a tenth of all they produced on a yearly basis to the priests of the tribe of Levi.

The Tithes

The Feast Attendance Tithe

Now let's review the tithes commanded by God for Israel.

Deu 14:22 Thou shalt truly tithe all [the increase](#) of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

This a tithe the other tribes of Israel were to save every year; they had a part in the land, they had fields in which to raise animals and harvest crops. This tithe was for their use in attending God's holy days.

Deu 14:23 And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, [\[this is the place where they were to celebrate God's annual feasts\]](#) the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings

of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

Deu 14:24 And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee:

God in the days of the physical nation of Israel placed His name somewhere in Israel where the feasts were to be celebrated; He never placed it in other countries. God was among the Israelites and spoke to them through Moses but God in NT times no longer has a physical nation. He has a spiritual nation and He communicates with it through His glorified son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman (Heb 1:1-2, John 14:26).

Deu 14:25 Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose:

Deu 14:26 And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,

Deu 14:27 And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.

The tithe for feast attendance was from their crops and increases in their flocks and herds. And, it was not only for their personal use; they were also to share it with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow, and the strangers that were within their gates at the time of the celebration of God's annual and weekly feast days. It was not a one time thing, it is a process that went on throughout the year.

The 3rd Year Tithe

Deu 14:28 At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: [\[this is the tithe Israel was to save every 3 years\]](#)

This tithe like the feast attendance tithe was to be shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the stranger that was within their gates.

Neither of these tithes were centrally administered by the Levites. The individual tribes saved them and shared them as commanded with the Levites, the fatherless, the widows and the strangers within their gates (the feast attendance tithe and the tithe every third year).

God's part of the offerings made by the Israelites and the feast attendance tithe and the 3rd year tithes were consumed as they were received. They could not be accumulated for the Levites to use as a means of becoming rich, to build luxurious houses, wear fine clothes, own large properties, etc. It was basically foodstuff which they consumed as they received it. It was a process that went on throughout the year. Israel lived from raising animals and planting crops and not everything was available all the time. Tithes and offerings could be made as animals and crops became available.

Recapitulation

Ancient Israel was commanded to give offerings unto God; they were not offerings made to Aaron and his sons who were the priests nor to the tribe of Levi; [they were made to God](#). Aaron and his sons were responsible for making the offerings brought by the people to the tabernacle of the congregation. The other Levites were responsible for transporting the ark of the covenant, moving the tabernacle of the congregation whenever God had Israel change location while in the desert and maintaining it once established in the Promised Land.

God gave Aaron and his sons, the heave and wave offerings of the many different offerings He had commanded for the children of Israel. Other parts of the offerings were for those Levites who were not priests. For example, if the offering was an ox, the part used to do the heave offering was given to Aaron and his sons and then the Levites who were not priests were given the 2 rear legs, one shoulder and the maw of the animal. The other parts of the animal were burnt outside the camp.

Israel was not commanded to give a tithe of the increase of their fields, herds and flocks to the Levites. They would have been overwhelmed with animals and, foodstuff they could not possibly eat before they began to rot. The Levites were given no part in the Promised Land. They had no fields in which to keep herds and flocks because God dedicated them to the service of the tabernacle of the congregation. If Israel had been giving them a 10th of their herds and flocks, the Levites would have had to spend a lot of time to care for them and this is something God did not want them to do and it is something they could not have done not having any part in the land.

And, if the tithe given them by the people were sacrificed animals, they could not have used them up before they began to spoil. There were 11 tribes who had herds and flocks, who were cultivating the land and had crops, orchards and vineyards. If all the people in these 11 tribes would have been responsible for giving the Levites a 10th of all they produced, they would have been unable to eat everything that was being given them before it started to rot.

The law of offerings and all the Levites sharing in the 2 tithes commanded by God provided sufficient food to Aaron and his sons and to the Levites who were not priests *on a gradual and timely basis* throughout the year so that they could make good use of it before it began to spoil. The law of offering did not require that the people give a tithe of the increase of their harvests, herds and flock; in fact, [it has nothing to do with tithing](#).

Essentially, Israel was never required to pay a tithe to the Levitical priesthood. What they had to do was to have a tithe to celebrate the feasts (annual and weekly) and every 3 years they were to have one more tithe. Both of these tithes were to be shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers who were in their gates. The Levitical priesthood and the Levites who were not priests all shared in these 2 tithes of the children of Israel.

These were the only 2 tithes commanded for the children of Israel. There was not a tithe that was specifically for Aaron and his sons who were the priests among the Levites.

Since Israel didn't have to pay a full tithe dedicated to Aaron and his sons, it follows that in New Testament times, God's spiritual nation of Israel is under no obligation to pay a tithe to those who claim to be ministers of God and who are heading the several and doctrinally different "true" churches of God.

This we will explore in the following part of this study .

Tithing in Our Days

Nowadays, it is believed and taught in the several organizations of men calling themselves "churches of God" that their members have to give them 10% of their yearly earnings because this is what the Bible says they must do. When it comes to tithing these several "churches of God" quickly refer their members to Mal 3: 8-10.

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.

Mal 3:9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Mal 3:10 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.

But these verses are talking to ancient Israel not to God's spiritual nation of Israel. They are not the same people at all and nor are they subject to the law of offerings as was ancient Israel. Israel as physical nation and the Levitical priesthood ended with the destruction of the second temple, the death of much of Israel that had returned to Jerusalem and the scattering of the rest among the nations of the world. This occurred when the Roman legions besieged Jerusalem, breached the wall and killed most of the people because of their rebellion against Rome.

They also turn to Mat 23:23.

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

In Mat 23:23 Christ was talking to the Jews who were OT Israel; He was not talking to His NT spiritual nation of Israel whose existence would only begin on the day of Pentecost. Christ was not telling NT Christians that they have an obligation to tithe; they did not yet exist.

If anything, in NT Scriptures there is quite a deemphasis on money as being a critical requirement for God's Church and there are no NT verses that can be interpreted as meaning that truly converted Christians are to be providing ministers, when they are any true ones, with a regular stream of money through paying tithes; quite the opposite is true.

This is well illustrated by Christ's instructions to the disciples when He sent them out to preach. What He told them and what organizations of men calling themselves "churches of God" say are 2 very different things.

Disciples Sent Out to Preach

When Christ sent the disciples out to preach the good news of the kingdom of heaven, He gave them the following instructions.

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:**

Mat 10:6 **But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

Mat 10:7 **And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Mat 10:8 **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

Mat 10:9 **Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,**

Mat 10:10 **Nor scrip [a wallet or leather pouch for food] for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. [It is the responsibility of those who are receptive to their message to provide them with meat or food; not money.]**

Mat 10:11 **And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.**

Those who were worthy were those who accepted their message.

Mat 10:12 **And when ye come into an house, salute it.**

Mat 10:13 **And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you.**

Mat 10:14 **And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.**

Mat 10:15 **Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.**

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

According to these verses, those going out to preach the Gospel are not to take any extra money, food, shoes, or clothing with them. When they come to a town they are to enquire who is worthy and stay there until it is time for them to move on. Those who were worthy were to provide them with meat or food as Christ says this is how they should support those who teach them. They were also to be careful not to provoke the anger of those who are not willing; those that are not called. They were to be as sheep among wolves.

Now, if we compare what Christ told His disciples to do when they went out to preach the Gospel to what modern-day preachers are doing today, we cannot help but notice the obvious differences.

What we see is men appointing themselves as preachers and teachers or being appointed by organizations of men who have given themselves the authority to appoint preachers and teachers. They are not sent out by God to do a work for God. All these organizations have one goal in mind, growing the number of people who attend their meetings so as to grow the amount of financial support they can get from them. Money is the driving force in all they do. People have always had an interest in religion, and religion has been the means for many to build large, wealthy organizations enjoying the high life of the rich and famous of this world. All one has to do is look around a bit and you will be able to see the many religious groups who have become fabulously wealthy from preaching. There is no lack of others who are imitating them in an attempt to achieve the same goal.

True Christians have not been exempted from coming under attack from men who would arise right out from among the truly converted and who for the love of money would pervert the truth.

Act 20:30 Also of your own selves [church elders] shall men arise, speaking perverse things, [become false prophets] to draw away disciples after them.

Their goal is to become rich and be celebrated as great teachers of God's truth. They deceive people into joining their organizations and once they succeed in doing so, they start abusing them and exploiting them financially always asking for ever more generous offerings and insisting they have to pay a tithe of their incomes to them.

These modern-day false prophets bring to mind what Christ told the Scribes and the Pharisees who also saw themselves as great teachers of God's truth who were owed the greatest of respect and honors from the people.

Mat 23:13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.

Mat 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

Mat 23:15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

Mat 23:16 Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, Whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!

Mat 23:17 Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Mat 23:24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Mat 23:25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Mat 23:26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

Mat 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Mat 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

Mat 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Mat 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

The Current Many "Churches of God"

If we spend some time examining what has been happening since the death of HWA, we see a number of "churches of God" having arisen. In many instances, they are headed up by the very same people who were leading men in the WCG many of whom were secretly in opposition to HWA. They are men who want to achieve the financial success of the WCG. They are working as hard as they can to reach as many people as they can to make them members of their organizations.

With the money they get from those who follow them, they are acquiring properties on which sit buildings designed by the best architects available, they are living in beautiful houses, drive late model cars, wear finely tailored suits, and are on social media and television advertising themselves to the greatest possible number of people. One of them has even purchased an executive jet. Jet airplanes are very costly to buy, and very expensive to maintain and operate. These church leaders and their close supporters, who are often family members and relatives, pay themselves big salaries from the money donated by the members of their organizations.

How does that way of acting compare to the instructions Christ gave to His disciples?

Not well at all; if anything, the many so-called churches of God are doing exactly the opposite of what Christ told His disciples to do. How then are these people really members of God's one, true Church.

If we understand what Christ said to the disciples, we should realize that if they are true men of God, they are not to be motivated in what they do by any great desire to enrich themselves from preaching of the Gospel supposing that they have such a commission. The disciples sent out by Christ were to rely on those who were willing, the ones God was calling, to provide them with food and shelter. This is how their immediate needs would be met with no mention anywhere that the “willing” were to give them money or commit themselves to providing them with tithes and offering on an ongoing basis once they became converted.

Do we have any example in the Bible of men of God having been commissioned by God to preach and who starting off poor became wealthy as a result of delivering God’s message to the people? Were Peter the chief apostle and the other apostles living in big houses on large properties which they owned. Did they have servants and associates accompanying them and supporting them as they went about preaching the Gospel?

If becoming rich and famous is a result of preaching the Gospel then why do we not have a single example of this happening in the Bible?

It would make a lot more sense to believe that preaching the Gospel or being called by God to do a work does not lead to one becoming rich, to the building of large organizations owning large tracts of land and luxurious buildings, and flying around the world in executive jets. There is a huge disconnect between the rich modern-day jet setting preachers and the instructions given by Christ to the disciples when they were sent out to preach the Gospel.

Let’s look at the example of Paul’s ministry to the Thessalonians which shows us how a true man of God behaves as he goes about preaching.

Paul's Example to Us

1Th 2:1 For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

1Th 2:2 But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

1Th 2:3 For our exhortation [what we encouraged you to do] was not of [did not come from] deceit, [a desire to have you believe something that is not true] nor of uncleanness, [us wanting to make money] nor in guile: [skilfully deceptive; using clever arguments to make you believe lies]

1Th 2:4 But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts. [Their preaching was not to try to please men so they would follow them and become the leaders of large organizations.]

1Th 2:5 For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God is witness: [We did not try to have you follow us by using flattery or out of a desire to make money. We did not tell you that you are all basically good people and no matter how you live your life, you will be saved if you follow us and support us.]

1Th 2:6 Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor yet of others, [we didn't want to become famous or for you to treat us as celebrities] when we might have been burdensome, [if we had done we would have become a burden to you] as the apostles of Christ.

1Th 2:7 But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: [We did not expect you to serve us or otherwise treat us in any special way but rather we were full of care for your well-being.]

1Th 2:8 So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. [Paul and those who preached with him were not seeking any benefits from those they taught; rather, they wanted to do them good because they loved them.]

1Th 2:9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

Paul had a job as a tent maker to support himself and the use of the plural "we" in this verse indicates that the others who were with Paul, also had jobs and did not rely on those who accepted their message to support them by giving them money.

1Th 2:10 Ye are witnesses, [you saw] and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: [They did not try to make money off of them, they didn't expect them to treat them in any special way as though they were great and famous men, they didn't lie to them and they sought to do to them good.]

1Th 2:11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, [They encouraged them to believe the truth and treated them well as a father would do for his children.]

1Th 2:12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Does that sound like what is going on right now in the several "churches of God"? Are ministers kind and fatherly toward the members of their groups? Are they supporting themselves by having their own jobs? Do they want to be honored as great teachers of the truth whose teachings are never to be questioned? Are they driven to build ever bigger "churches" so as to have enough money to go on television as preachers of the Gospel with themselves as the on-air celebrities presenting the truth to the world?

Are all these organizations of men calling themselves "church of God" the true church of God that would never die out? Christ said He would build His Church not many churches having significant doctrinal differences between them that keeps them apart and squabbling with each other.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

This is a simple truth which the current leaders of the many "churches of God" said they believed when they were part of the WCG but which they now seem to have conveniently forgotten.

God's Warning About False Prophets

In the early days of Christianity, was there a problem with men going around claiming to have been sent by God and teaching as a means to make a living for themselves?

A true servant of God, in this case an elder or bishop, must be as described in Tit1:7-9. And, of particular importance for us to note, he must not be given to filthy lucre (Tit 1:7). He mustn't be doing it for money and he mustn't personally have a lust for money. God calls money earned by preaching, filthy lucre.

Tit 1:7 For a bishop [an elder] must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;

Tit 1:8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;

Tit 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

The gainsayers were men who were using preaching as a way of making money. They said things (sayers) to make money (gain).

Tit 1:10 For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: [the Jews]

Tit 1:11 Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake.

Right from the very beginning of God's Church there were already many deceivers teaching Christians things they ought not to, to try to convince them to follow their false teachings rather than the truth they had received from God's true disciples. Their goal was to make money off of them. Paul had appointed bishops or elders to oppose the gainsayers seeking to pervert God's truth for filthy lucre's sake.

Basically, religion has always been a means of exercising power over others. The deceivers say they speak in the name of God, that those following them will go to heaven, that they will be saved from the coming Great Tribulation which is always getting nearer and nearer, that Christ's Second Coming is soon to occur and that they are the ones who can get them ready to meet Him. There is always an imminent danger of death and a quickly approaching time of destruction from which they can be spared by following them.

Nobody wants to die and men will cling to the slimmest of hope that indeed their pastor is a true one that will save them from the coming time of death and destruction. They will endure being mistreated and financially exploited by men who say they are true pastors and teachers of God without stopping long enough to realize that if they were, they would not do so.

How they should behave with those called out by God is given us in the following verses from the book of 1 Titus.

1Ti 5:1 Rebuke not an elder, [an old man] but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren;

1Ti 5:2 The elder women **as mothers**; the younger **as sisters**, with all purity.

1Ti 5:3 **Honour widows** that are widows indeed.

They would not be treating them harshly but rather they would show them the respect they would give to their own grandfathers, grandmothers, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and widows.

We presently have many "churches of God" when God says He has only "one" church. How can that be?

Many False Prophets Among the Truly Converted

The Bible tells us is that there would be "many" false prophets in the world and that there shall be false teachers **in** the congregations of God's Church. And, It also tells us that it is the "many" in the congregations of God's Church 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, 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 shall follow** their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

Why would these false teachers come into God's Church pretending to agree with its teachings?

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

They would make a show of being true believers and defenders of the faith but their real purpose is to make merchandise out of those who follow them which is to say, to use them to make money. All of this because of their great love of money, their covetousness.

Can we explain why today there are so many different churches of God with incompatible doctrines and who steadfastly refuse to come together as one church?

I think we have just seen the reason why? It would be the "many" in the congregations of God's Church who would follow the false prophets that would come into the Church or who would arise right from within it. The

leaders of these several "churches of God" don't want to lose the leadership of their own "church of God" and the money they get by joining one of the other "churches of God."

Why would it be the many of the initially truly converted who would follow them?

2Ti 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

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

2Ti 4:4 And they shall **turn away their ears from the truth**, and shall be turned unto fables.

These verses are talking about truly converted members of God's Church who would tire of being corrected by God's truth and would seek other teachers having a feel-good message that reassures them that they are good people who will surely be saved and that they don't need to make any big changes in their lives to obey God.

Why would there be so many false prophets? Is it because being a true prophet of God does not lead to possessing an abundance of material riches? In other words, is it because there is not much money to be made by preaching the truth but there is a lot to be made by preaching lies.

Everybody wants to be saved but not everyone (most) don't want to keep having to resist the lust of their flesh and of their mind. They will eagerly follow and support any teacher coming along saying God loves them, Christ died for their sins and all they need do is accept Christ as their Saviour and keep on living their lives as they've always done.

They've forgotten or are willfully ignorant that sin is forgotten only as long as one remains in a state of belief and repentance.

In Rom 5:20, God through Paul tells us that there will always be enough grace to cover sin.

Rom 5:20 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:

This led to some saying that, "Hey, the more I sin, the greater God's glory as this increases the amount of grace from God." In other words, since my sins will always be covered by the grace that resulted from Christ's sacrifice, then I am free to sin without losing my salvation as the penalty for sin has already been paid by Christ. But, see what God through Paul in the book of Romans is saying to those who think they can lead a life of sin and still be saved.

Rom 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

Rom 6:2 God forbid. How shall [we, that are dead to sin](#), live any longer therein?

Rom 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Rom 6:4 Therefore we [\[true Christians\]](#) 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](#).

Christians in baptism have symbolically died to their old lives of sin and should walk in newness of life; a life of trying to obey God in all things to the best of their abilities.

A feel-good message that salvation is possible without continued repentance and belief will appeal to considerably more people than one where constant effort needs to be exercised to resist all sin in our lives. The greater the number of followers the more money that can be made.

In the current "churches of God" the message that is used to attract and retain followers is about the soon coming Great Tribulation which will be a time of death and destruction. Incessant urgent messages are given about how close it is and how little time there is to finish the work the church supposedly has to do. Greater and more generous offers are always needed to hasten the completion of the work before it can no longer be done.

God's Warning About Covetousness

In the book of Titus, God through Paul is giving guidance and instructions to those who would want to be preachers and teachers.

1Ti 6:1 Let as many servants [\[you members of God's Church\]](#) as are under the yoke [\[slaves\]](#) count their own masters worthy of all honor, that the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed.

1Ti 6:2 And they [who are slaves/servants] that have believing masters, let them not despise [intensely dislike] them, because they are brethren [in the faith]; but rather do them service, because they are faithful and beloved, partakers of the benefit. These things teach and exhort.

1Ti 6:3 If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness;

1Ti 6:4 He is proud,[overly self-important] knowing nothing, but doting [foolishly loving] about questions and strifes [heated disagreements] of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, [severe criticisms] evil surmisings, [to guess something without having much or any proof]

1Ti 6:5 Perverse [willfully opposing or resisting what is right] disputings [to argue irritably or with irritating persistence] of men of corrupt [dishonest] minds, and destitute [completely lacking] of the truth, supposing [to assume to be true] that gain [getting things or money] is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

1Ti 6:6 But godliness [careful observance of God's laws] with contentment [satisfaction] is great gain. [to attain; to acquire]

1Ti 6:7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.

1Ti 6:8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

1Ti 6:9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare,[something that lures or entangles the unwary] and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1Ti 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

These verses are a warning to those who have been called and chosen to be careful not to succumb to the temptation of wanting to be rich. This is particularly true for preachers and teachers who for the love of money

pervert the truth they have to enrich themselves at the expense of those who follow them.

Their efforts then turn to growing the size of their organizations by preaching a message that people will find pleasing and reassuring so they will happily support them with tithes and generous offerings which are supposedly used to do "The Work." However, in practice, they are used to provide a luxurious lifestyle for themselves and their inner circle of confidants and enablers. A lot of the money is spent on impressive and luxurious buildings housing their administrative staff and serving as a place to hold performances by talented but costly musicians and lectures by equally costly prominent news personalities.

No accounting is ever given of how much money is spent on "The Work" and how much they spend on themselves in salaries, cars, international travel, and on developing large tracts of land they own into showpieces of architectural and landscaping excellence or in some cases, on the purchase, maintenance, storage and operation of a personal executive jet. The Pastor Generals of these so-called churches of God are essentially building monuments to themselves to satisfy their vanity and desire to be remembered as great men of God who dedicated their lives to doing God's work.

They haven't read what the book of Ecclesiastes says about how lusting after riches as a way to get enduring satisfaction and immortalize oneself in the minds of others is like trying to grasp the wind.

In organized religious groups who are lusting for money, we find them pressuring their followers to give them ever more money to support them in doing "The Work." They see themselves as the inheritors of the Great Commission given the apostles and they think their work is contributing to the fulfillment of the requirement for the Gospel to be preached to the world unto all nations before the end comes.

After having exhausted their followers' ability to give ever more generous offers, they begin to steal the inheritance of their followers children who are not part of their organization.

We have seen this process at work with church leaders telling the elderly in their congregations to transfer their children's inheritances to them. They convince them to do so by telling them how important is the work they are doing. They make it easy for them by doing all the paperwork for them and showing them how to hide what they are doing from their families so they will not try to get them to change their minds.

Nowhere in the Bible do we read of any commandment from God to parents and grandparents that it is acceptable for the "church" to deprive members' children of their rightful inheritance to support "The Work."

It is a great evil perpetrated by men who say they have been chosen by God to be pastors and teachers.

Pro 13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

This is what lusting after money produces in men who say they have a calling to be pastors to God's flock but who are fully corrupted by their lust for money. They are preaching for filthy lucre which is something God very clearly condemns.

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

In other words, because of their lust for money they have lost their salvation and they will surely not escape being punished. Their damnation is sure, ".....their damnation slumbereth not."

In addition to preaching the Gospel, some of these "churches of God" say they are required by God to give a warning message to specific modern-day nations which they say represent Israel. Let's examine if it would be possible to give a warning message from God to unconverted nations.

The Ezekiel Warning Work

Some of the "churches of God" that came into being after the death of HWA, claim that they have the responsibility to deliver a warning message to the nations they consider to be end-time Israel (principally Great Britain and the United States of America). This is the Ezekiel warning work that HWA said he had to do along with preaching the Gospel.

Let's review just what it is God commanded Ezekiel to do.

Ezekiel, in his lifetime, was to go to the house of Israel which was in captivity and give them God's warning message.

Eze 3:5 For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel;

Ezekiel spoke the same language as the Israelites. He wasn't addressing a nation whose language he did not speak and that would make it impossible for them to understand his warning message.

Eze 3:6 Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee.

Ezekiel was to go to [them](#) of the captivity, to Israel with whom Ezekiel was also in captivity, and he was to give them a warning message from God.

Eze 3:11 And go, [get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people](#), and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear.

He was not sent to an Israel that would exist far into the future and way past his natural life span. And here is the warning message from God that he gave to them. If they didn't stop being stiffnecked and resisting Him, they would suffer massive destruction.

Eze 6:6 In all your dwellingplaces the cities shall be laid waste, and the high places shall be desolate; that your altars may be laid waste and made desolate, and your idols may be broken and cease, and your images may be cut down, and your works may be abolished.

It was a very severe warning but Israel did not change its ways. In the last book of the OT, the book of Malachi, we have a description of how Israel did not heed God's warning message.

Mal 1:7 Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible.

Mal 1:8 And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.

Mal 1:9 And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

Mal 1:10 Who is there even among you that would shut the doors for nought? neither do ye kindle fire on mine altar for nought. I have no pleasure in you, saith the LORD of hosts, neither will I accept an offering at your hand.

As a result of their continued disobedience God's prophesied punishment came upon them.

Israel came back from its captivity and rebuilt the walls of Jerusalem and built a 2nd temple to replace the first one that had been totally destroyed. Israel again lived in the Promised Land and in Jerusalem.

After Christ's ascension to His Father, the Jews (Israel) rebelled against the Roman authorities. The Roman armies came and besieged Jerusalem and eventually, its walls were breached and all their dwelling places were laid waste by the Roman armies as well as those of the other cities of Israel.

But, God says He would not make a full end of Israel, a remnant would be allowed to survive.

Eze 6:8 Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries.

This is exactly what history shows happened. Israel after its destruction as a nation, the remnant wandered from country to country. It is only after the end of the Second World War with the Balfour Declaration, that Israel became an identifiable nation in the world occupying a specific territory over which it administered its own laws, had its own army, etc.

Ezekiel's warning message was for ancient Israel; not for some future nation of Israel and the prophesied punishment that all their dwelling places would be laid waste, has already happened.

Despite what has just been said, is there any way that a warning message could be given to those nations, who are considered to be Israel, by some of the several current "churches of God"?

There are many insurmountable obstacles to any religious organization of men wanting to give a warning message to the non-religious and unconverted nations of the world that, unless they repent all their dwelling places shall be destroyed.

Firstly, the correct knowledge of what is sin is spiritual truth which can only be known by revelation from God to His called and chosen ones. Not everyone is now being called and the attitude of the unconverted toward God's law is given us in Rom 8:7

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for **it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**

Secondly, in order for people to repent they need to know what they have to stop doing and what it is they have to start doing. This is all spiritual knowledge which also can only be known by revelation from God.

1Co 2:14 But the natural **[unconverted]** man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for **they are foolishness unto him:** neither can he know them, because **they are spiritually discerned.**

There is no possibility that the unconverted nations of the world whether they be descendants of ancient Israel or not will be responsive to any warning message given by any religious organization.

It is just not realistic to think that a warning message from God could ever be given to any of the world's nations whether or not they be descendants of ancient Israel who, on the whole, are to remain unconverted until the coming of the Millennium when all will be called.

Ezekiel's message was to an unconverted nation of Israel which never knew who was the God who ended their captivity under the Egyptians.

They still held on to their idol worshiping ways.

Eze 20:6 In the day that I lifted up mine hand unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands:

Eze 20:7 Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Eze 20:8 But they rebelled against me, and would not hearken unto me: they did not every man cast away the abominations of their eyes, **neither did they forsake the idols of Egypt:** then I said, I will pour out my fury upon them, to accomplish my anger against them in the midst of the land of Egypt.

And they kept on breaking the Sabbath.

Eze 20:11 And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them.

Eze 20:12 Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths, to be a sign between me and them, that they might know that I am the LORD that sanctify them.

Eze 20:13 But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: they walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and my sabbaths they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my fury upon them in the wilderness, to consume them.

They went into captivity; then Ezekiel warned them, they didn't heed his warning and they were again invaded, their dwelling places destroyed and they ceased to be a separate and distinct nation in the world.

Mr. Armstrong had taught that the descendants of Ephraim (Great Britain) and Manasseh (the United States of America) constitute the modern-day nation of Israel. However, because of very large immigration from 3rd world countries and others, the essential nature of these countries as white and English speaking is being changed at a very rapid pace. These countries are becoming a mosaic of diverse languages, cultures, traditions and religions with the result that its founding people are being gradually drowned in a sea of foreigners and reduced to irrelevance.

There is a worldwide movement of people from the poor nations of the world to the rich nations of the world. It used to be that controls were in place to prevent the dissolution of Western world countries' culture, traditions and customs in a deluge of foreigners but this consideration has been cast aside. First world nations are being erased and its inhabitants becoming just one more minority among many others.

If Great Britain and the USA ever were a nation descending from Ephraim and Manasseh, they are now being fundamentally transformed and soon will cease to exist but in name.

How then would it be necessary or even, would it be possible to give a warning message from God to modern-day nations who speak different languages, hold pagan religious beliefs or just don't believe in religion? How could they ever relate to or take seriously any message from any religious organization to repent to avoid their countries being destroyed and most of them dying?

Ezekiel went to the physical nation of Israel that was in captivity because of idolatry and Sabbath breaking. He spoke their language, they were in a specific place and they had the religious background to understand

God's warning to them. None of these conditions exist today among the nations who are supposedly descendants of Ephraim (Great Britain) and Manasseh (the United States of America).

And, most importantly, God's nation since the day of Pentecost is a spiritual nation, not a physical nation living in a specific geographical area of the world. Its members are found all over the several nations of the world speaking thousands of different languages not even spoken by the "churches of God" who say they have to deliver a warning message from God to them.

And, since the coming into being of this spiritual nation God is no longer sending prophets to Israel.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners [spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets](#),

Heb 1:2 Hath [in these last days](#) spoken unto us [by his Son](#), whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Ezekiel the prophet's message from God was to the physical nation of Israel. God is not sending any more prophets to the physical nation of Israel wherever it may exist in our days. God's nation in NT times is a spiritual one whose members are in the many different nations of the world. They are not in a specific geographical location, speaking a single language with historical and religious backgrounds and customs related to those of the ancient nation of Israel.

Why should God punish people who are unable to understand His warning message assuming there is one to be given to them. Judgment is on God's one true Church because they know the truth. It is not upon the unconverted because they don't know the truth.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

The Great Tribulation is God's wrath on the nations similar to what happened when the Deluge occurred. It is not God punishing the wicked who are those who have been given to know the truth and who either did not follow their calling or who didn't remain faithful to it. This will happen in the Great White Throne Judgment.

“The Work” — Preaching the Gospel

There is a widely held belief among the several “true” churches of God that arose after the death of HWA, that God’s church has the responsibility for continuing the great commission given the apostles. The ministry teaches that the preaching of the Gospel done by Mr. Hebert W. Armstrong (HWA) must be continued as the end that was to happen once the Gospel was preached to the world has not yet come. All these “true” churches of God say they are following faithfully in the footsteps of HWA but even though he said that he had preached the Gospel to all nations, they say they have to continue preaching it.

HWA on page 158 of *Mystery of the Ages* made the following statement:

This gospel now has been preached into every nation.

Another important point that those who say they are following what HWA taught are ignoring is that HWA made it very clear that the church has no commission to preach the Gospel to the world. Only apostles are given that commission. The role of church members according to HWA is to support the work of an apostle when there is one, by their tithes and offerings. The ordained ministry has no mandate to preach anything to the unconverted masses of the world.

How many other teachings of HWA are these "churches of God" not following while insisting they are teaching the same things he taught. Most of the time, their members, many of which are from the former congregations of the WCG, have never really studied into what he taught and never had a comprehensive understanding of his teachings. They don't know nor seem to care to know how these "churches of God's" teachings differ from what HWA taught.

The Bible is very clear that the great commission was personally given by Christ to the apostles NOT to a church which at that time did not even yet exist; that is, God’s spiritual nation of Israel or God’s Church. Christ commissioned “them”, the apostles, not a non-existing Church of God.

Yet, all these "churches of God" say that they have to preach the Gospel to the world which is something they call “The Work”, and that they need the financial support of the brethren to do so; their tithes and offerings.

Let’s for just a moment suppose that the church has the commission to preach the Gospel to all nations as a witness before the end comes.

God says it is necessary to have heard and believed the Gospel to be saved.

Mar 1:15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

1Co 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;** to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

It being necessary to have heard and believed the Gospel gives rise to a number of questions.

Is preaching the Gospel to all nations a requirement for only those nations that have existed since the days of the apostles?

What about the nations of the first 4,000 years before Christ who never heard it, how will it be taught to them?

What about the time of the great 1,260 years of persecution when true Christians fled into the wilderness to not become the victims of a great new so-called Christian religion which persecuted all other religions and treated them as heretics only worthy of death?

How about the nations that will exist during the Millennium?

How about those who will rise up in the Last Great Day resurrection?

Who will teach them? Who can do it?

Every person in every nation who have ever existed from Adam and Eve to the time of the Great White Throne Judgment must have heard the Gospel, repented and believed it. What men or organization of men having somewhere in the title of their organization the words "church of God" could ever reach every person in every nation that will have ever existed?

Also, depending on the reference source consulted, there are currently between 5,000 and 10,000 different languages spoken in the world. How many of these people could be reached by an organization of men speaking 6 or 7 languages?

It should be becoming increasingly apparent, if you are being honest, that no man or organization of men, can or could ever fulfill the requirement to preach the Gospel to all men in all nations who speak a great diversity of languages and teach all those who have lived and died since Adam and

Eve, those who are yet to be born during the Millennium and those who will be in the resurrection of the Last Great Day.

Being able to effectively reach all these people is what it means to preach the gospel in all the world for a witness unto all nations. This is what must be done before the "end" spoken of by Christ can come. Is it something that could ever be done by men? It doesn't make a lot of sense to keep on thinking that it is something that can somehow be done by men.

And, what "end" was Christ talking about? Was it the end of the governments of man as taught by HWA or is it something else. What is the "end" is fully explained in the following study: [What is the End and When will it Happen?](#) If preaching the Gospel to all nations is not a work that can possibly ever be accomplished by men then who else can do it? There is only one possible answer and that is that it can only be done by God.

How God has been pastoring and teaching His Church and preaching the Gospel is something that is explained at length in the following study available to you by clicking on the following hyperlink: [Are Preachers Needed for Salvation?](#)

The original 12 apostles were given a humanly impossible task. Did Christ set them up to fail? No, the commission given the apostles was accomplished in the only way it could ever be and that is in type. Doing something in type means that something is done on a small scale in the same way it will be done on a much larger scale when it is actually accomplished. The Great Commission was accomplished in type on the day of Pentecost. Peter's inspired speech following the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman coming to dwell in him and all the other apostles, was to men of Judah from all nations dwelling in Jerusalem.

Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

It was obviously physical impossibility for the apostles in their lifetime to go to all nations in all the world and to preach the Gospel to them. They all died without ever having been capable of actually and physically doing so.

The Gospel is spiritual truth which can only be known by revelation from God. This first occurs by the holy spirit God the Father who is the only one who can call men and then by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to the Father's called and chosen ones.

No man can make God's spiritual truth understandable to other men and not be immediately rejected as foolishness.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man [unconverted] receiveth not [doesn't accept] the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The world is not now being called and this is why it is not under judgment.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Only those who have been called and chosen and who are therefore part of the house of God are now being judged because they have been given to know the spiritual truth of God.

Even during the Millennium when all will be called, it would not be possible for any man or organization of men to preach the Gospel to each and every man then alive on the earth.

Preaching the Gospel in all the world as a witness unto all nations is not and cannot be something that men can do. The apostle preached it to the world in type but it must be effectively preached to all men that have ever existed and this can only be done by the holy spirit the Word who teaches all things to the holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen ones.

No man or organization of men has the ability to do so.

Apostles

For those who think that the Gospel can be preached by an organization of men, they believe that another apostle is to come following the death of HWA (assuming that Mr. Armstrong was an apostle) and that he will be found at the head of a yet-to-be-found "true" church of God. Many are looking for that apostle whom they are sure exists somewhere so they can join him in doing the work of preaching the Gospel to the world and become part of the real "true" church of God. In order to understand how this apostle personage may appear and to determine if HWA was indeed an apostle, let's look at who has the power and authority to appoint apostles.

2Co 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

According to these Scriptures, it should be clear or clearer, that apostles are not appointed by men or by organizations of men. None of the original apostles were appointed by men or an organization of men. They were all appointed by the holy spirit God the Word made flesh, Jesus-Christ.

Only God can make a man an apostle.

If God had given men the authority to appoint men to be apostles wouldn't we be able to find examples of this being done in the NT writings of the apostles? Peter was the chief apostle, do we have any example of him appointing any men to be apostles? Are there any examples anywhere in the Bible of men appointing other men to be apostles? The answer is: they are none.

But some will say, what about Barsabas who was appointed an apostle to replace Judas Iscariot who died after betraying Christ to the Roman authorities? Did men not make him an apostle?

Act 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Act 1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

Act 1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen,

Act 1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Act 1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Barsabas became an apostle by the hand of God. God chose Barsabas, not men. He was chosen by lot. Casting lots was a means of finding out what was the will of God when a choice or decision had to be made.

There was the Urim and the Thumim which were 2 boards with symbols on them that was part of the great high priest's tools so-to-speak. They

were used by the high priest to find out God's will on different matters in the days of the physical nation of Israel.

Lev 16:7 And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Lev 16:8 And Aaron shall **cast lots** upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.

Lev 16:9 And Aaron shall bring the goat upon which **the LORD'S lot fell**, and offer him for a sin offering.

Lev 16:10 But the goat, on which **the lot fell** to be the scapegoat, shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make an atonement with him, and to let him go for a scapegoat into the wilderness.

When Israel entered the Promised Land, which tribe was going to have what part of the land was decided by casting lots.

Num 26:55 Notwithstanding the land shall be **divided by lot**: according to the names of the tribes of their fathers they shall inherit.

Num 26:56 **According to the lot** shall the possession thereof be divided between many and few.

Num 33:54 And ye shall divide the land **by lot** for an inheritance among your families: and to the more ye shall give the more inheritance, and to the fewer ye shall give the less inheritance: every man's inheritance shall be in the place where **his lot** falleth; according to the tribes of your fathers ye shall inherit.

The practice of casting lots continued unto the days of Christ's First Coming to Israel.

Mat 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, **casting lots**: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

Mar 15:24 And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments, casting lots upon them, what every man should take.

The Romans casted lots not to find out God's will; rather, they were using the process to decide who would get what part of Christ's clothes. Lots

are used in a similar manner today where numbers are drawn from a box let's say where certain of them represent a prize of one kind or another. Everyone in a given group is given the opportunity to draw a ticket or lot.

When the high priest cast lots it was God who intervened in the process to show the outcome as being a yes or a no for the question asked or to indicate a particular course of action. In the case of the distribution of the Promised Land to the tribes of Israel, God intervened in the process to indicate which tribe was to be given which part of the Promised Land.

When the apostles cast lot to determine whether Barsabas or Matthias was God's choice to be the replacement apostle for Judas. God made Barsabas an apostle, not men.

Would it be possible to cast lots in NT times and in this way find out what is God's will or what men if any, He has chosen to be an apostle? God now only communicates with men through the holy spirit God the Father who calls men and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches them all things.

There are no means today for any man to be appointed as an apostle by God as the original apostles were.

Let's continue our analysis.

How God Speaks to His NT Church

Let's now spend time examining what the Bible tells us about how God now speaks to those making up His Church and who are His spiritual nation of Israel.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake
in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

In the days of ancient Israel, God spoke to the fathers (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their physical descendants) by the prophets that He sent to them.

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he
made the worlds;

But in these last days in which we live and which started with Pentecost, God has spoken unto us, those making up His spiritual nation of Israel, by his Son not by using men as His prophets.

We know that God's Son is the glorified Christ who is now sitting at the

right-hand of His Father on His throne as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. He is the holy spirit God the Father's spokesman because He is the one who speaks to His called, chosen and faithful ones.

God no longer has a physical nation but a spiritual nation with whom He communicates by spiritual means: the holy spirit God the Father calls men and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches them all things. The casting of lots was a process instituted for the Levitical priesthood of God's unconverted physical nation of Israel. The Levitical priesthood ended with the fall of Jerusalem and God is no longer communicating with His Church through physical means as just mentioned. The casting of lots is therefore no longer a process that men can use to determine what is God's will in any matter including whether God wants to appoint a certain man to be an apostle.

God the Father speaks to His spiritual nation by His Son and what is it that the Son says to God the Father's called, chosen and faithful who are His Church?

Joh 14:16 And I [Christ] 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 know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost,[it should read "spirit"] 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.

In NT times, God the Father is teaching His called and chosen ones by His Son.

What is He teaching them? All things.

Would that include, the Gospel?

Yes, it certainly would as all who have ever lived have to have heard the Gospel, repented and believed it to be saved.

Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is

the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Eph 3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

1Co 4:15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

2Th 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1Pe 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Rev 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

The Gospel must reach each and every man speaking a very large number of different languages who have ever lived for them to be saved. Therefore, it has to be preached/taught to all men of all nations that will have ever existed by the time God's plan of salvation for mankind comes to a close in the Great White Throne Judgment.

This is not something that can be done by any man or any organization of men; especially for those who lived in the first 4,000 years of man's existence when there was no Gospel to be preached.

Are they irretrievably lost?

In NT times, it is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to the holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen ones. He will also be the one, and He is the only one who can do so, teach all those who have never heard the Gospel. These are those who lived in the 4,000 years before Christ), those who since the day of Pentecost were never called, those that are yet to be born during the Millennium and those that will be resurrected at the beginning of the Last Great Day.

It is a sure thing, given that hearing and believing the Gospel is essential for salvation, that the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman will surely teach it to all those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father. All will have been called before the coming of the Great White Throne Judgment and have been given an opportunity for salvation.

Only God has the ability to teach all those of the first 4,000 years of mankind who have never heard the Gospel; those who lived since the day of Pentecost to Christ's Second Coming who have not heard the Gospel and those to be born during the Millennium and in the resurrection of the Last Great Day..

No man or organization of men could ever preach the Gospel to all nations who have ever existed where every man in every nation has to have heard the Gospel and believed it in order to be saved.

Aside from the physical impossibility of reaching all those who have ever lived it must be borne in mind that the Gospel is spiritual truth and that the only ones who upon hearing it will not reject it as being foolishness are those being called by God.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

And, let's keep in mind that it is only God who can call men and He is not now calling everyone. He will only do so during the Millennium and at the beginning of the Last Great Day.

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

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

Until the Millennium arrives God is calling many from the world's population but they are still the few relative to all those who remain uncalled.

God's plan of salvation for mankind is being carried out by God the Father and God the Word and Spokesman.

NT Pastors and God's Church

The OT physical nation of Israel had a physical priesthood which administered the law given them by God through Moses who was God's prophet to them. As time goes on, the priesthood became negligent in fulfilling its duties and began using its prestige and authority over the people to abuse them.

Eze 34:1 And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

Eze 34:2 Son of man, **prophecy against the shepherds of Israel**, prophecy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?

Eze 34:3 Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock.

Eze 34:4 The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but **with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them**.

Eze 34:5 And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.

Eze 34:6 My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them.

Eze 34:7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Eze 34:8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, **neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock**;

Eze 34:9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Eze 34:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I am against the**

shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

The whole book of Malachi tells the story of how Israel had departed from the truth it had received and of God's dissatisfaction with the priesthood. Here are excerpts of what God says in the book of Malachi.

Mal 3:7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

Mal 3:13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee?

Mal 3:14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

God say there will come a time when He will give Israel pastors according to his heart who will feed them with knowledge and understanding.

Jer 3:15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

But God clearly says He will not force anyone to obey Him.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

He has created mankind with absolute free moral agency which means that there is no power in heaven or on earth that can force a man to believe something he has not chosen to believe.

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:

If there were a higher power that could overcome the freewill given man

by God, then God could not have commanded Israel and all true Christians to choose life.

It then follows that no man can be trusted to always remain faithful because God will not force him to do so. So, who are the pastors God is referring to in Jer 3:15 that will give the sheep, His called, chosen and faithful members, knowledge and understanding?

God's NT spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church is a spiritual organism; it is all those who have been called by the holy spirit God the Father and who are being taught by the holy spirit God the Word wherever they may be in the world, whatever language they may speak, and whether organized or not into small local groups.

They are called by the holy spirit God the Father and they are taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

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 14:26 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.

God is a spirit and in NT times He says that He MUST be worshiped in spirit and in truth.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

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

The hour came when the true worshipers were to worship the Father in spirit and in truth, on the day of Pentecost when for the first time, the holy spirit God the Father started to call men to salvation. Those called and chosen by God, God's spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church, must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

God doesn't want to nor needs to be worshiped through repetitive and symbolic rituals whether they be those of ancient Israel or the rituals instituted by men claiming to be true ministers of God. Christians worship God by their obedience. Christians' Great High Priest is Christ and He is the

only mediator between them and God the Father. It is not a role that can be assumed by any man or organization of men.

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

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

This is why God's truth and true Christians' understanding of it doesn't come from any single man or group of men to whom God supposedly is giving spiritual knowledge for them to teach to others.

Each and every Christian is being taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as he studies God's holy Bible. The role of the ministry when there is a true one in existence is rather small.

1Co 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

1Co 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

The Lord is the one that makes it possible for men to believe His spiritual truth, not men.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but **God gave the increase**.

God is the one that makes it possible for the members to increase in understanding of the Scriptures.

1Co 3:7 **So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth**; but God that giveth the increase.

Paul's conclusion is that it is not by what they do that growth in understanding occurs. Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters plays any role in increasing the members' understanding of the Scriptures; it is ALL God's doing.

True ministers of God when there are any have no other mission than to make those they serve independent of them.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Eph 4:14 **That we henceforth be no more children**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

New converts start off their spiritual lives as babes-in-Christ but they are not to stay that way. They have to become spiritually mature adults who can feed themselves through their study of God's holy Bible and be able to protect themselves from the false prophets that come into or arise right from within the congregations of God's Church.

Christians are not to rely on any man, truly converted or not, as their standard of truth.

Psa 118:8 It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.

Isa 2:22 Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

Newly-converted Christians and long-time members of God's Church always have to prove all things before accepting anything as being true and they are to reject all teachings whose truthfulness cannot be supported with their Bible.

The true pastors and God's NT spiritual nation of Israel are the holy spirit God the Father who calls men to salvation and if they follow their calling they become chosen. Once chosen, it is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who then teaches them all things as they study God's Holy Bible, the word of God.

God's Church a Spiritual Nation

Since the day of Pentecost, God's Church has been composed of all those called by the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling and are remaining faithful. They have been called from all the nations of the world, the speak many different languages, don't know of each other's existence and in most instances, are not organized into congregations headed up by a pastor or a preacher.

In Ephesians 4: 11 God says He gave some to be apostles, some evangelists, some prophets and some pastors and teachers. Upon reading this verse, some have jumped to the conclusion that it somehow says that these different offices defines the government that is to exist in God's Church. However, nothing is even remotely implied in Ephesians 4:11 that evangelists reported to apostles, and that pastors and teachers reported to evangelists.

Furthermore, God makes it plain in Heb 1:1-2 that apostles, evangelists and prophets have come and gone and there are not to be any in God's NT Church. The reason why there aren't any is that God in NT times speaks to His Church only through the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Each member has dwelling in Him God the Father and God the Son.

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye [truly converted Christians] are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye [true Christians] are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Their teachers are the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word. All of God's NT saints are taught of God, not men.

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.

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.

Their great high priest is not any man but Christ Himself, not any man.

Heb 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we [true Christians] have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

The only mediator between true Christians and God is Christ, not any man.

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

God's NT spiritual nation of Israel is a holy nation and a royal priesthood.

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

Individual Christians are the living stones of God's spiritual house or temple.

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

They are also a holy priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices. The spiritual sacrifice they offer to God acceptable to God by Jesus Christ is themselves on a daily basis putting to death their old man of sin and striving to walk in newness of life with a mind regenerated by the in-dwelling presence of the holy spirit God the Father and of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

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.

One last Scripture which is critical to you correctly understanding how God's Church is a spiritual nation not represented by an organization of men located in a specific geographical area.

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

In this Scripture, we find a concise explanation of who and what is God's spiritual nation of Israel. Those making up God's Church in NT times are

individuals whose sins have been forgiven after having been called and chosen. Before being called, they were not a people as they are from all over the world, speak different languages, live in different countries, do not know each other and, are by themselves or in little groups. In that way they do not constitute a physical people or nation whose members usually live in a specific land and speak the same language. However, though not being together in the same geographical location and not knowing each other for the greatest part, they are a people, God's people, God's nation, God's Church. What makes them God's spiritual nation is the truth given them by God and their ongoing desire to obey Him to the best of their abilities.

They are God's little flock, small and invisible to the world. Though they are without power or importance in this world, Christ assures them that it is their Father's good pleasure to give them the kingdom.

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

Tithing in New Testament Times

In the Old Testament God had dedicated one of the tribes of Israel to the service of the tabernacle of the congregation with Aaron and his sons being the priests who would offer the sacrifices of the people. The Levites didn't have a part in the Promised Land and God provided for their need for food, drink and clothing by the law of offerings.

The first tithe was God's part of the offerings brought by the people to the tabernacle of the congregation. The people did not have to give the Levites 10% or a tithe of the increase of their herds, flocks and fields every week or month of the year. They were to make offerings as required by the law of offerings and these offerings were made at different times and for different reasons. In other words, they were not required to pay a first tithe to the priesthood of Aaron; they were required to make offerings. It was God who gave His part of the Israelites' offerings to Aaron and his household.

The second tithe was for celebrating the annual holy days and was to be shared with the Levites.

And there was a third tithe which was accumulated every third year within their gates (of the individual tribes) and which was to be shared with the Levites, the fatherless, the widow and the strangers in their gates.

In New Testament times, God has a spiritual nation and its members are

taught by the holy spirits of the Godhead. God is not now nor has He ever used men to teach His spiritual nation. And, let's suppose for a moment, in NT times there is such a thing as truly converted men who are pastors and teachers, they don't have to rely on offerings and on the 2nd and 3rd tithe to provide for their needs for food, shelter and clothing. God did not say anything about these people not having a part in the land as was the case for the tribe of Levi. And, most importantly, the requirements of the law of offerings and to save tithes ended when Israel ceased to be a nation and the priesthood of Aaron ended when Jerusalem and the 2nd temple were destroyed by the Romans. NT preachers and teachers, if and when there are any, would be sustaining themselves by having a job like Paul and those with him did so as to not be a burden on those they are supposedly serving. They would not be becoming rich off of the money of those who follow them.

God's NT spiritual nation consists of people from the nations of the world whom the holy spirit God the Father has called and chosen and who are being taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. God said that His church would be a little flock invisible to the world as conversion is something that occurs in the mind and is therefore not visible to others, including to other truly converted Christians.

This is why since the day of Pentecost they are not to be found in large organizations of men who are highly visible in the world with leaders that are actively engaged in preaching to the unconverted world thinking that God is working out His great master plan of salvation through them.

If men are essential to God being able to carry out His plan of salvation, then during the 1,260 years of persecution that came upon God's saints when there wasn't any true ministers of God preaching to the unconverted world, God's church died out. But it was never to die out and the holy spirit God the Father kept on calling men as He has been since the day of Pentecost and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman kept on teaching them all things.

This process began on the day of Pentecost, is ongoing now and will continue until the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day. The administration of God's plan of salvation and its success or failure does not and cannot depend on men or any man.

Christ is the great high priest and the only mediator between men and God. He is the author and the finisher of the faith of true Christians. No man can come to Christ unless called by God the Father. No man can call other men to salvation or open their minds to understand God level spiritual truth. The only man another man can ever save is himself. It's as simple as that.

No tithes are mentioned in the New Testament nor do we read of any requirement for God's spiritual nation to tithe. There is however, the requirement for Christians to help other Christians.

1Ti 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

We have seen how the disciples sent out to preach the Kingdom of God to Israel were told not to take extra money, clothing, food, etc. with them. God says the worker is worthy of his meat (food generally and shelter) and that when they come to a city they are to ask who are willing and to stay with them until it's time for them to go to another city. Those who accepted their teachings were to provide them with food and shelter not gold and silver and what they gave them were not tithes or a tenth of anything.

We have also seen that Paul and those who taught with him, refused to be a burden or be chargeable to those who are willing. They had jobs and provided for themselves.

How about Peter, the chief apostle and John, the disciples who were the closest to Christ. Did they have a lot of money and did they attach any importance to having money.

Act 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Act 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Act 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

Act 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

Act 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Act 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Act 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

Act 3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Act 3:9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

Did Peter, the chief apostle, live in a mansion and did he tell the other disciples that they were to teach only what he taught? There's nothing in NT Scriptures that Peter or any of the other original disciples lived lives of luxury, ease and comfort paid for by other true Christians through tithes and offerings.

Did Paul who was not one of the original apostles go to Jerusalem to be taught of Peter, and the other apostles who were there, what it was he should be preaching?

Gal 2:1 Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Gal 2:2 And I went up by revelation, and communicated unto them that gospel which I preach among the Gentiles, but privately to them which were of reputation, lest by any means I should run, or had run, in vain.

Gal 2:6 But of these who seemed to be somewhat, (whatsoever they were, it maketh no matter to me: God accepteth no man's person:) for they who seemed to be somewhat in conference **added nothing to me:**

Paul did not accept that Peter had any authority to change what he preached. There was no top-down, hierarchical government in God's First Era Church nor is there any in God's one true Church which is not an organization of men who self-appointed themselves to be apostles, evangelists, and prophets. None are to exist in God's NT Church as has been explained throughout this document.

Let's go back to examining whether tithing is a NT requirement for God's people and by this I mean those called, chosen and faithful who are proving all things and studying their Bible to have growth in knowledge and understanding and in the perfect character of Christ.

The apostles were commissioned to preach the Gospel and when Christ sent them out He gave them the following instructions.

Luk 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luk 9:3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

Luk 9:4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

Luk 9:5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

Why is it they did not need an abundance of money to preach the gospel of the kingdom of God? Had it been essential to the accomplishment of their mission, Christ would surely have told them.

On the day of Pentecost, the apostles did accomplish their commission but only in type as it was impossible for them to go to the nations of the world in their lifetime. It occurred when Peter preached to those who were in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Act 2:5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

It could only be done in type as it is a humanly impossible thing to do. In NT times and since the day of Pentecost, the holy spirit God the Word is the one who has been preaching the Gospel to those called by the holy spirit God the Father.

Since the death of the apostles appointed by Christ, God is not appearing to men to appoint any of them as apostles (Heb 1:1-2). Also, we have no NT Scripture where we see a man or an organization of man, making a man an apostle. If there were a man-level process by which someone could become an apostle, we would have at least one example of that occurring in NT Scriptures but there aren't any.

What it all Means for YOU Today

There are some who are looking for the one true church founded by Christ which they believe would have at its head an apostle preaching the Gospel to the nations of the world and be actively engaged in giving out a warning

message to those modern-day nations who are supposedly the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh whom they consider to be modern-day Israel.

They just can't accept that God's true church could be anything but an organization of men patterned on HWA's WCG type of organization. For them, this is how God's church is supposed to exist and there can be no other ways. They say they are holding on to the truths given the church by HWA but they are forgetting that HWA often said that the size of his organization and the ministry of the WCG which had deacons, elders, pastors, evangelists and an apostle was not the usual way the church had existed throughout the ages.

He said it many times but it would seem not too many were listening or if they were, they didn't believe it.

HWA was well aware that God's church was to be the "little flock" largely invisible to the world, and hated and persecuted by it whenever it came to its attention. This is why he had to periodically justify why the WCG was big, wealthy and visible to the world. The justification given was that the wealth and size of the WCG were necessary to enable the preaching of the Gospel to the world by a man God had specially raised up to be an apostle to do so before the arrival of the end.

However, as has already been mentioned, this is quite different from the instructions Christ gave His disciples.

Luk 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Luk 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luk 9:3 And he said unto them, **Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.**

In the book of Mark we find a similar description of Christ's instructions to His disciples as He was sending them out to preach the Kingdom of God.

Mar 6:7 And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;

Mar 6:8 And **commanded** them that **they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:**

Mar 6:9 But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

Mar 6:10 And he said unto them, **In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.**

Mar 6:11 And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.

And in the book of Luke, we again find the same instructions being given to the disciples.

Luk 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Luk 9:2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luk 9:3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

Luk 9:4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

Luk 9:5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

Luk 9:6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

Why is it that the disciples who were sent out by Christ Himself to preach the Kingdom of God did not need a lot of money to do so? Why is it that they could do the work of preaching the Kingdom of God without having abundant food, clothing and money at their disposal?

Why is it that they could do the work of preaching the kingdom of God without having any group of faithful followers accompanying them and catering to their need for food and shelter? Why didn't they have the best

animals of the day to travel to the villages and town where they were to preach the Kingdom of God?

The answer is simple; all these things are not essential for someone to preach the kingdom of God or the Good News; if they were, Jesus-Christ when He sent the disciples out to preach, would have told them so but no, He told them to do the exact opposite of those who today say that themselves or their organization have a commission to preach the Gospel to the world.

Supposing any of these men and their organizations had a commission to preach the Gospel to the world or to give out a warning message, they would not be striving to become rich and be treated like the famous people of this world if they are following Christ's instructions, which they are obviously not doing.

If the were following the instructions Christ gave to His disciples and Paul's example, they would not be seeking to extract money from those who follow them and neither would they ever become rich. In practical terms this means there is absolutely no justification for having an executive jet plane for the personal use of the Pastor General, for purchasing large properties where experts hired by the church design beautiful landscaped grounds on which are found impressive custom designed buildings that are architectural masterpieces, no highly-paid inner circle of supporters and enablers often including family members, no constant exhortation to give ever more generous offerings, and no first and third tithes centrally administered by the staff of the Pastor General.

The logical result of following Christ's instructions to His disciples is that the true servants of God will not be found living a luxurious lifestyle and administering large organizations all paid for by tithes and offerings. There is not a single example in all the NT of God's Church ever having existed that way. So this begs the following question: Why is it believed that God's Church are large, visible to the world and wealthy organizations of men when there are no Biblical example of that ever having occurred?

God's warning to all truly converted Christians is that they are to prove all things because many false prophets have gone out into the world and that they will also be found in the congregations of God's true Church. Christians are not to put their trust in any man even those who are truly converted. The Bible tells us that the false prophets will be the many and their goal is going to be to make money by preaching a soothing, feel-good message that will appeal to the greatest number of people who they can then financially exploit.

You, who is sitting comfortably, in one of the many "true" churches of God need to open your minds and your Bible and begin examining against the Scriptures what you have been taught and are being taught to make sure it is the truth. God holds you personally responsible for doing so. No one else can do it for you and your salvation depends on you doing it. Your salvation does not depend on belonging to an organization which you consider best approximates the type of organization created by HWA. Salvation is not a matter of following the right man, belonging to the right organization of men, or believing the same things others around you believe.

Salvation is between you and God through Christ your High Priest who is the one and only mediator between you and God, not any man. Your salvation does not depend on men. Christ is the author and the finisher of your salvation, not men.

You are completely free to choose what path you will take whether it be unto life or death and God, will not force you to choose life, and He will respect your decision to choose death if ultimately that is your choice.

