

Melchisedec  
Your  
Great High Priest



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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.**

*God's New Testament church is a spiritual nation whose members are all those called and chosen by God the Father and taught by God the Word, and who are remaining faithful. They have only one intermediary or mediator between them and God, Christ who after His ascension is God the Word and the High Priest of God the Father's spiritual nation, according to the order of Melchisedec.*



## *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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**W**hen Christ came to Israel the first time, it was to that nation that the world knows as modern-day Israel that was created for the Jews after the Second World War as for centuries they had no home country. The name “Jews” is actually a nickname used to designate the combined tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah who after the death of Solomon became the Southern Kingdom with its capital being Jerusalem. The other 10 tribes became the Northern Kingdom and its capital city was Samaria.

The kingdom of Israel became divided because the man Solomon chose to succeed him, Rehoboam, told Israel he would treat them more harshly than Solomon ever did.

1Ki 12:1 And Rehoboam went to Shechem: for all Israel were come to Shechem to make him king.

1Ki 12:2 And it came to pass, when Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who was yet in Egypt, heard of it, (for he was fled from the presence of king Solomon, and Jeroboam dwelt in Egypt;)

1Ki 12:3 That they sent and called him. And Jeroboam and all the congregation of Israel came, and spake unto Rehoboam, saying,

1Ki 12:4 Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee.

1Ki 12:5 And he said unto them, Depart yet for three days, then come again to me. And the people departed.

1Ki 12:6 And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people?

1Ki 12:7 And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever.

1Ki 12:8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:

1Ki 12:9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter?

1Ki 12:10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins.

1Ki 12:11 And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.

1Ki 12:12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day.

1Ki 12:13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him;

1Ki 12:14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and **I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.**

At His First Coming, Christ came to the descendants of the Southern Kingdom. They had gone off into captivity under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. Babylon was later conquered by the Persians and Cyrus the Great, King of Persia allowed those Jews who wanted to do so, to go back to Jerusalem. The Northern Kingdom of Israel went into captivity under the Assyrians in BC (Before Christ) 722 and the Southern King-

dom, in BC 586. The Northern Kingdom disappeared in history and the Southern Kingdom, upon some of its members returning to Jerusalem, became known as Israel though it was only 3 of the tribes of Israel.

Israel will be fully reunited as one people after Christ's Second Coming when He will gather them from the nations where they will have been scattered during the Great Tribulation and resettle them back in the original Promised Land.

**Joh 10:16** And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: [those of the Northern Kingdom, what the world calls the "Lost Ten Tribes of Israel] them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

Christ will bring them back to the original Promised Land as well as the sheep of the Southern Kingdom, the Jews (the 3 tribes of Benjamin, Levi and Judah) who will also have been scattered among the nations during the events of the Great Tribulation.

**Eze 11:17** Therefore say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even gather you [all of Israel] from the people, and assemble you out of the countries where ye have been scattered, and I will give you the land of Israel.

Israel is the nation Christ is coming to at His Second Coming. He didn't come to, or for, the world the first time and He is not coming to the world at His Second Coming. Israel is the focal point of the Bible, first as a physical nation in the Old Testament (OT) and second, as a spiritual nation in the New Testament (NT). God's spiritual nation will include people from all nations of the world as will be explained later in this study.

Now, let's start our review of the priesthood of Melchisedec and of its great importance for God's SPIRITUAL nation of Israel, His one true church.

### **The Background**

The law of Moses and the priesthood established according to the order of Aaron never justified sinners of their sins. As Paul puts it, perfection was not by the Levitical priesthood, and if it would have been, then there would have been no need for a new priesthood to arise which would be after a different order, that of Melchisedec which would make possible the forgiveness of sin.

Heb 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

In Hebrews 7, which we'll review together, Paul explains the great change that occurred regarding the nature of God's nation. It would no longer be a physical nation; it would be a spiritual nation whose members' sins have been forgiven. Salvation was never made possible by the physical and symbolic sacrifices and offerings of the OT priesthood of the order of Aaron.

This was quite shocking news to those Jews who had converted to Christianity. They had difficulty letting go of their former beliefs as has often been the case for those coming to conversion even in our days. Their former beliefs clash with the truth that is being revealed to them and some just can't let go of them. They try to somehow make them fit with the new knowledge they are being given and though they just can't do it, still they maintain some of their former beliefs. Ultimately, the conflict between the truth and their maintenance of their false beliefs leads to their losing their salvation. Light (God's spiritual truth) and error (the false religious beliefs of this world) cannot co-exist.

The Jews until their conversion were following the law of offerings of the Old Testament administered by the Levitical priesthood. Paul, as we will see, explains to them that these past customs and beliefs did not result in the justification of sin; were temporary and were to last only until the Messiah should come.

Luk 16:16 The law [the OT Mosaic Law] and the prophets [God sending prophets to Israel] were until John [the Baptist]: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, [by Christ] and every man presseth into it.

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 [started with Christ's First Coming] spoken unto us by his Son, [the holy spirit God the Word] whom he [God the Father] hath appointed heir of all things, by whom [Christ] also he [God the Father] made the worlds;

Notice that God the Father created all things by His Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, not by a "thing" called the holy spirit

which supposedly is power that emanates from God. The power of God is the power of creation which both God the Father and God the Word have. Christ is the obedient Son who obeys His Father in all things.

Now, going back to the focal point of this study, Luke 16:16 and Heb 1:1-2 effectively put an end to the idea that the law of offerings, animal sacrifices, symbolic and ceremonial washings continue in God's NT spiritual nation of Israel and that God's spiritual nation is an assembly of men taught by men who appointed themselves as teachers of God's truth.

There is a better priesthood than the one made according to the order of Aaron which is a priesthood of men. This different priesthood which has always existed and which makes salvation possible is the priesthood of Melchisedec. God's nation in NT times is spiritual and every Christian is individually taught and given understanding of the spiritual truths of God's Bible by the holy spirits of the Godhead. The priesthood and the teachers of truly converted Christians is God the Father while being called and God the Word, if they follow their calling, as they study God's Bible.

### Who is Melchisedec?

As we will see, the Bible is very clear as to who is Melchisedec and on the role he plays in the salvation process.

Heb 5:5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he [God the Father] that said unto him, [God the Word made flesh, Christ] Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

Heb 5:6 As he [God the Father] saith also in another place, Thou [God the Word made flesh, Christ] art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

God the Father made God the Son (Christ), a high priest to His called and chosen ones which is to say, to all truly converted Christians.

God the Father and God the Word being eternal means that the priesthood of Melchisedec has forever existed.

Heb 5:9 And [Christ] being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Melchisedec, not men, is the author, the means by which eternal salvation is made possible for those who “obey” Him. These are those who believe and put into practice in their lives the truth they are learning from their Bible studies.

God the Word who for a time was Jesus the Christ, has forever been God the Father’s high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the [author of eternal salvation](#) unto all them that obey him;

Heb 5:10 [[God the Word made flesh, Christ](#)] Called of God [[the Father](#)] an [high priest after the order of Melchisedec](#).

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

Heb 7:1 For this [Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God](#), who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

Heb 7:2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

Heb 7:3 [Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life](#); but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest [continually](#).

Heb 6: 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even [Jesus](#), made [an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec](#).

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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 have [a great high priest](#), that is passed into the heavens, [Jesus the Son of God](#), let us hold fast our profession

These verses make it very plain that God the Father made His Son, God the Word made flesh, a high priest (Heb 3:1) after the order of Melchisedec and that this priest has forever existed (Heb 7:3).

When did Melchisedec begin His work as God the Father's great High Priest to God the Father's called and chosen ones who are remaining faithful?

### God's Spiritual Nation

God's nation in NT times is not a particular people living in a specific land and whose members are principally those born into it. This is what was the ancient nation of Israel who for a time was God's Church in the wilderness (Act 7: 38). Ancient Israel was not God's spiritual nation nor are its modern-day descendants. At a time yet future, God will call them and they will be given their opportunity to become part of God's "spiritual" nation of Israel.

Ancient Israel saw itself as being God's chosen people, and they were, but as a physical nation not as a spiritual one. In NT times a great change was made as to who are those who would be God's people. Here is how Paul explains it.

Rom 2:25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

Circumcision in the flesh was commanded for Israel as a physical sign that they were God's people but Paul says that being circumcised in the flesh is profitable or means something only if your attitude is to keep the law as best as you can. If you don't, then it is as though you were not circumcised; your circumcision in the flesh does not make you part of God's "spiritual" nation.

Rom 2:28-29, which we will shortly review, makes plain the distinction Paul is making regarding who are those who are part of His physical nation and who are those who are part of His spiritual nation.

Rom 2:26 Therefore if the uncircumcision [\[the Gentiles \(these are all those who are not Israelites\)\]](#) keep the righteousness of the law, [\[is observing God's law\]](#) shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

If a Gentile (a non-Israelite) who is not circumcised in the flesh, keeps the law, then in God's eyes it is as though he was circumcised. He is then effectively part of God's nation, not the physical one but the spiritual one.

Rom 2:27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, [men are not born circumcised, it is not their natural state] if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

If the Gentiles (anyone who is not an Israelite) fulfil the law they will judge those who don't including those who are circumcised in the flesh.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, [an Israelite] which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, [an Israelite] which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

In NT times, the only circumcision that counts and makes someone part of God's spiritual nation of Israel (God's Church) is that of the heart; (the mind ). These are those whose attitude is to obey God's law as best they can. Their interest lies in being praised by God because they are obeying Him. They accept to be guided only by God's law not by what men say they should do to obey God. They are not seeking to be praised by men or organizations of men who claim to be God's representatives and holders of God's truth.

In NT times, God is not using men or organizations of men to teach His called and chosen ones.

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;

Since the day of Pentecost, God's nation is spiritual and is being taught by God's Son, Christ who since His ascension to His Father who restored Him to the glory that He had before becoming a man, is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father's called and chosen ones, who teaches them all things.

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

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

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I [Christ] will come to you.

Joh 14:19 Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I [Christ] in you. [my disciples and all truly converted Christians]

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, [I, Christ] which is the Holy Ghost, [Christ is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman after his ascension to His Father as He was in eternity before He became the man Jesus-Christ] 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.

Christ is the Comforter and Spirit of truth who was with His disciples and He very clearly tells them that He would not leave them comfortless. He would come to them and be in them and all truly converted Christians and He would teach them all things. This doesn't mean that Christians will come to know and understand every truth of the Bible; rather, the meaning is that any understanding that Christians may come to have as the result of their personal studies of God's Bible comes from or is made possible by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman working in their minds revealing spiritual truth to them.

In NT times, God's spiritual nation is all those called by God the Father who have followed their calling. They have committed themselves to obeying Him in all things as best they can; their circumcision is of the heart. And, they are being taught all things, as they study God's holy Bible, by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. They are not being taught by any man or organization of men. God's NT nation of Israel is spiritual and its high priest and teacher is Christ. Their worship of God is in spirit and in truth not through observing man-devised physical and symbolic rituals modeled on OT physical rituals that are no longer relevant to God's spiritual nation or church.

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

Much more to come on this later in this study.

### **A Change of the Law Needing a New High Priest**

The shortcoming of significance with the Old Covenant God made with ancient Israel is that even fulfilling its requirements perfectly would not result in sin being forgiven.

Heb 7: 11 If therefore perfection [the forgiveness of sin] were [would have been] by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

Paul's question to Jewish converts is that if the observance of the law of offerings of ancient Israel and the performance of animal sacrifices by the Levitical priesthood had resulted in the forgiveness of sin (perfection) why would it be necessary to have a new and different priesthood not of the order of Aaron?

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

Animal sacrifices were only symbolic; they had no power to forgive sin. There would then be a need for a different priesthood, one that would make it possible for sin to be forgiven.

Heb 7: 12 For the priesthood being changed [for a new and better one that brings salvation, justification of sin or perfection], there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

The "change of the law" is not that a new law was needed but rather, a new way of observing it. Initially, at Mount Sinai, Israel was given the law of the 10 commandments from which are derived the statutes and the judgments. These are practical application of the law in different interpersonal and social situations which resulted from the decisions made by the judges when applying the law over the people. If ever a case was too difficult for them to make a ruling, it would be brought to Moses and if he could not resolve it, Moses would bring it to God who told him what the judgment should be.

Also, the “change in the law” here is not referring to there being a change required to God’s spiritual law of the 10 commandments. The law of offerings which included animal sacrifices were only instituted after Israel sinned; they were not part of the law of the 10 commandments given Israel at Mount Sinai.

Jer 7:21 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Put your burnt offerings unto your sacrifices, and eat flesh.

Jer 7:22 For I spake not unto your fathers, nor commanded them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, [concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices](#):

Jer 7:23 But this thing commanded I them, saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.

Jer 7:24 But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.

Jer 7:25 Since the day that your fathers came forth out of the land of Egypt unto this day I have even sent unto you all my servants the prophets, daily rising up early and sending them:

Jer 7:26 Yet they hearkened not unto me, nor inclined their ear, but hardened their neck: they did worse than their fathers. [\[who died in the desert where they had wandered for 40 years\]](#)

How the administration of God’s law of the 10 commandments changes under the priesthood of Melchisedec is illustrated by the following verses of Mat 5:

Mat 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, [\[according to how the law of the 10 commandments was administered under the Levitical priesthood\]](#) Thou shalt not commit adultery: [\[which is to say have sex with another man’s wife\]](#)

Mat 5:28 But I say unto you, That [\[according to how the law is administered in NT times\]](#) whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. [\[mind\]](#)

The change in the law that is consequential is that the 10 commandments have to be applied in their spiritual intent, not only in the letter. If the law for example were to say: “you shall not steal a black horse” it doesn’t mean that you can steal any other horse as long as it’s not black. The commandment not to steal in its spiritual expansion covers all possible forms of stealing. Man’s law is always one step behind reality as its application is literal. For example, even today in our modern world, if someone devises a new way to steal not covered by existing laws, he cannot be prosecuted. Men then have to write a law making the new way of stealing a crime before anyone can be prosecuted. With God’s law, it’s simple, stealing is stealing no matter how new or different may be the way it is done

Christians are to apply the spirit of the law, not simply the letter. This is part of what it means to worship God in spirit and in truth.

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

God’s law has to be fulfilled in its spiritual intent which makes necessary a new high priest who can open the minds of Christians to understand the spiritual dimension of God’s spiritual law.

This new high priest is Christ who was made a high priest by God the Father for the purpose of teaching and giving understanding of His spiritual law [the 10 Commandments] to His called and chosen ones. The physical ordinances of the OT as well as the many different offerings and sacrifices God had commanded ancient Israel, ceased with the creation of God’s NT spiritual nation on the day of Pentecost. The end of the Levitical priesthood came following the destruction of the 2nd temple, and the end of Israel as a physical nation, after its scattering among the nations following the destruction of the 2nd temple and of Jerusalem.

Since the observance of the law of offerings didn’t forgive sin and that God’s law of the 10 commandments has to be kept in more than just the letter, a new priesthood was needed. Since the death, resurrection, ascension and glorification of Christ, God’s nation is no longer the physical nation of Israel and the high priest of God’s new spiritual nation of Israel is no longer a man who is a high priest after the order of Aaron.

**IN OTHER WORDS, NO MAN OR ORGANIZATIONS OF MEN CAN CLAIM FOR THEMSELVES THE ROLE OF MELCHISEDEC AND OF HIS PRIESTHOOD.**

God’s nation or church is spiritual, its high priest is a spirit being, Melchisedec (the role given to God the Word and Spokesman by God the Fa-

ther) and its priests as we will see are all those called and chosen by God the Father.

Since Christians are now governed by a new high priest, as we have just read in Heb 7: 12, Paul says there is a change in the law. The law of the 10 commandments given ancient Israel does not change except that it must be applied in the spirit not just in the letter. OT offerings and animal sacrifices ceased to be a requirement as they were physical and symbolic for a physical people who could not understand the “spirit” of God’s law. Observing God’s 10 commandments in their spiritual intent requires the presence in men’s minds of the holy spirits of the Godhead which were not available to OT Israel.

Now, continuing with our review of Heb 7.

Heb 7: 13 For he [Jesus] of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe [Judah and not Levi], of which no man gave attendance at the altar.

In other words, the priesthood of Melchisedec is not in any way a continuation of, or part of the priesthood made according to the order of Aaron which was of the tribe of Levi; Jesus was from the tribe of Judah. So, it should be understood that the Aaronic priesthood and its repetitive, physical and symbolic ceremonies, offerings and sacrifices are not part of how Israel as a spiritual nation is to worship God.

Heb 7: 14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda [not from the tribe of Levi from which the priests were taken i.e., those who were members of the family of Aaron]; of which tribe [Juda] Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

Heb 7: 15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest,

The Levitical priesthood of the order of Aaron was needed to administer God’s law of the 10 commandments (in the letter not in the spirit) and the law of offerings over a physical and unconverted nation. Now that Israel is a spiritual nation, another and different high priest is needed who can make it possible for God’s law to be followed in its spiritual intent by giving men the understanding they need to be able to do so. This is not something men can do as demonstrated by the ancient nation of Israel who was never able to obey God’s spiritual law of the 10 Commandments and even the physical requirements of the law of offerings.

A new high priest was needed who is not a man but Christ who now sits at the right-hand side of God as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman and who is the great high priest of God's spiritual nation of Israel which started on the day of Pentecost. He makes it possible for men to understand God's spiritual law.

Heb 7: 16 Who is made, [not after the law of a carnal commandment](#), but after the power of an endless life.

The Levitical priesthood was instituted for the purpose of administering a law (carnal, physical) of ritualistic offerings, diverse ceremonial washings, etc. It was a temporary priesthood of men with a physical and temporary ministry. The priesthood according to the order of Melchisedec is better than that of Aaron as it was made by God the Father and its high priest has the power of an endless life. It is a sure and lasting priesthood which cannot ever fail or end

Heb 7: 17 For he [\[God the Father\]](#) testifieth, Thou [\[Jesus who was then the Word or the Logos\]](#) art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Heb 7: 18 For there is verily a disannulling [\[a setting aside; to annul utterly, to make void\]](#) of the commandment [\[the carnal commandment or physical laws administered by the Levitical priesthood \(Heb 7:16\)\]](#) going before [\[that was before administered over Israel\]](#) for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.

The physical laws given ancient Israel could never forgive sin nor provide salvation and had to be replaced by a law whose observance would make possible the forgiveness of sin and salvation, God's spiritual law.

Heb 7: 19 For the law [\[the law of a carnal commandment i.e., the animal sacrifices carried out by the Levitical priesthood\]](#) made nothing perfect [\[did not forgive sin\]](#), but the bringing in of a better hope did [\[the spiritual administration by God the Father's great High Priest of God's spiritual law of the 10 Commandments\]](#); by the which we [\[NT Christians\]](#) draw nigh unto God.

Heb 7: 20 And inasmuch as not without an oath he [\[Christ\]](#) was made priest:

Heb 7:21 (For those priests [\[the Levitical ones of Aaron and](#)

his family] were made without an oath; but this [priest, Christ, the Word made flesh was made a priest] with an oath by him [God the Father] that said unto him, [God the Word] The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

Heb 7: 22 By so much was Jesus made a surety [guarantee] of a better testament [a better covenant which makes possible salvation which was not possible under the priesthood of Aaron.]

Heb 7: 23 And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death:

Heb 7: 24 But this man [Jesus], because he continueth ever, [born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal life as a glorified spirit being] hath an unchangeable priesthood.

Heb 7: 25 Wherefore he [Melchisedec] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Those who become converted Christians come to God by Christ. He is the mediator between men and God. Men do not come to God by the preachings of men.

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

Heb 7: 26 For such an high priest became us, [it is right for us to have such an high priest] who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

Something very important being said here. This high priest is holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners. This high priest is not a man subject to sin; to the temptation of fame, power and money; to using deceit and lies to get a following from which to make and accumulate riches; and to use religion for personal fame and power. He can be fully trusted as He has no ulterior and undeclared monetary interests hiding behind a facade of spirituality. He will always have at heart the spiritual well being of each and every member of His spiritual nation.

Heb 7: 27 Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

Jesus was the Christ who was the Lamb of God offered up as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind and to whom all powers have been given and who is presently our great high priest that abides continually and intercedes on our behalf before God the Father against Satan the deceiver and the destroyer and the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10).

Heb 7: 28 For the law [of animal sacrifices] maketh men high priests which have infirmity; [it was administered by fallible human beings] but the word of the oath, [the priesthood, that is of the order of Melchisedec] which was since the law, [God's law has always existed] maketh the Son, who is consecrated [as God's high priest according to the order of Melchisedec to His spiritual nation of Israel or His Church] for evermore.

### **Implications for NT Christianity of the Priesthood of Melchisedec**

As has been covered in other studies available on this Web site, God's Church as it existed in the days of the apostles is not something that was to continue. God had then allowed for a number of offices of responsibility to exist in His First Century Church.

Eph 4:10 He [Christ] that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

Eph 4:11 And he [Christ not men] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

The disciples had been personally trained by Christ and what they taught to the ministers they trained was absolute truth. It was not their personal interpretation of what they thought the Scriptures meant. Unfortunately, these truths became lost because of the great persecution that came upon God's Church. It had to flee into the wilderness far from the great cities of their days to avoid imprisonment and being put to death by a new great false Christian religion which persecuted all other religious groups that would not follow its teachings.

God's spiritual nation or church continued to exist through those God the Father (not men) called and chose with God the Word and Spokesman as their teacher opening their minds to understand the spiritual truths of the Bible as they studied it. The origin and continuation of God's spiritual nation which is never to die out is God's doing, not men's.

Men through the ages who have read the Bible have come to the conclusion that the offices mentioned in Eph 4:11 constitute God's government in God's Church and that they have a commission to be the teachers of God's Church. They assume that in God's Church there would always be some of these offices and sometimes all of them.

Men have taken it upon themselves to set themselves up as representatives of God's government in God's Church and as the ones through which God is revealing truth that is to be taught to members of their congregations. This is a process which has been repeated in the many different Christian churches of the world. They are all using the Bible as their source of doctrine but all have different doctrines which keeps them apart which goes to show that they don't really understand the Bible.

**GOD DOES NOT HAVE SEVERAL, DOCTRINALLY DIFFERENT TRUE CHURCHES.**

These men believe that they have received a calling from God to be apostles, evangelists, preachers, teachers, etc. however, God's NT church is spiritual, not physical. IF God would have wanted His Church to continue as it existed in the first century, He certainly has the power to do so but this is not what obviously happened. The persecutions prevented its continuation as a physical organization of men visible in the world. God's intention is to build His NT spiritual Church by His spirit, not by men.

Zec 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Men have understood this verse and Eph 4: 11 as meaning God's spirit works through men to teach other men God's truth but what we have seen coming out of the minds of these men is spiritual error and confusion. We see it in the great number of different Christian churches in the world and in the many recently created "true" churches of God whose teachings differs in so many ways that none of them can come together with any of the other ones. They are just like the diverse and spiritually confused Christian churches of this world.

The high priest of God's spiritual nation is no longer any man as in ancient Israel where Aaron was the high priest. God the Word made flesh, Christ, is the high priest who teaches all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones, not men. And He does it by enabling God the Father's called and chosen ones to understand the spiritual truths of the

Bible as they study it. No man can call another man nor make it possible for him to understand the spiritual truths of the Bible.

### **God's OT Physical Nation God's Church in the Wilderness**

The ancient, physical nation of Israel was God's never converted church in the wilderness

Act 7:38 This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

It had a priesthood of men, Aaron and his sons who were of the tribe of Levi. The people were commanded to make different offerings such as burnt offerings, grain offerings, peace offerings, sin offerings, and guilt offerings. Aaron and his sons' responsibilities was to make the different offerings of the people brought to the tent of the congregation. These offerings, notably the guilt and sin offerings, never forgave sin and consequently, Israel never was a converted nation.

Israel was then a physical nation living in a specific land and the principal way to become part of it was to be born into it. Their worship of God was through repetitive, physical and symbolic ceremonies. The priesthood was responsible for teaching and administering the law over the people. The ten commandments were kept in the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies; they were not in the minds of the people like they would be in God's NT spiritual nation. Once settled in the Promised Land, God's temple was a building.

### **God's NT Spiritual Nation of Israel**

The OT physical nation of Israel nor its descendants are God's NT spiritual nation.

The great high priest of God's NT spiritual nation of Israel is Melchisedec not any man. Those who become members of this nation are those who follow their calling when called by the holy spirit God the Father. Their calling is not any man's doing. They are from all over the world and are mostly by themselves and sometimes, in little groups. Upon their becoming converted they do not leave their homes to live in a specific geographical location, country or city where would be found all those coming to conversion. They live out their lives where they were

called. There is no specific location on the earth where all truly converted Christians are to gather and form a nation like ancient Israel.

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

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

Those from the nations of the world called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father are the citizens of the individual nations from which God called them. However, though living in separate nations, once they become converted, they become part of God's people or nation. They are not a physical nation living in a specific country, they are God's spiritual nation which does not require that they all live in the same country or geographical location on the earth nor is it necessary that they assemble to form congregations. The link between them and God, and each other is spiritual, not physical through organizations of men.

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Their teachers are the holy spirit God the Father while being called, and if they follow their calling, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches them all things as they study God's holy Bible. Christ, God the Word made flesh is their one and only mediator between them and God, not any man or any organization of men.

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

They are God's temple.

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

They are the living stones of God's temple and they are God's holy priesthood offering up spiritual sacrifices.

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

They are the spiritual sacrifices offered to God.

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.

God's temple, God's priesthood, the sacrifices they offer and God's nation are all truly converted Christians from all over the world and their teachers are the holy spirit God the Father while being called and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman if they follow their calling. The understanding of God's spiritual truths is from and by God, not by men or any organization of men.

The priesthood of the order of Melchisedec is forever and there is none other that can ever follow it. God's one, true Church is a spiritual nation which will exist until the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind as there will always be men called by God who will remain faithful.

Eph 2:20 And [\[truly converted Christians\]](#) are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Eph 2:21 In whom all the building [\[the apostles, the prophets and the truly converted\]](#) fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

Eph 2:22 In whom ye [\[truly converted Christians\]](#) also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

God's spiritual nation of Israel originated with and exists by the power of God and will endure by the power of God until the very end of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

### **God's Glorious Temple**

In the book of Haggai, God speaks to Zerubbabel who was involved in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem and the first temple of God that had been destroyed by the armies of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon when the Southern Kingdom went into captivity. Here is what God had to say to them regarding the temple they were building.

Hag 2:1 In the seventh month, in the one and twentieth day of the month, came the word of the LORD by the prophet Haggai, saying,

Hag 2:2 Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest, and to the residue [these are those who came back from captivity; not all of them chose to come back] of the people, saying,

Hag 2:3 Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? is it not in your eyes in comparison of it as nothing?

God is asking those who saw the great beauty of the first temple built under Solomon what they thought of the appearance of the second temple as compared to the first temple. God tells them “.....is it not in your eyes in comparison to it as nothing?” The second temple was nowhere near as impressive as the first one. The people could have gotten discouraged upon realizing this but God gives them hope.

Hag 2:4 Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, saith the LORD; and be strong, O Joshua, son of Josedech, the high priest; and be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the LORD, and work: for I am with you, saith the LORD of hosts:

Hag 2:5 According to the word that I covenanted with you when ye came out of Egypt, so my spirit remaineth among you: fear ye not.

Hag 2:6 For thus saith the LORD of hosts; Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;

Hag 2:7 And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, saith the LORD of hosts.

The house God is speaking of is not the temple they were building but another one which God will build and which is not a physical temple.

Hag 2:8 The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.

God says He already owns all the silver and all the gold. The glory of the new temple He is building won't be because it will have more gold and silver than even Solomon's temple.

Hag 2:9 The glory of this latter house shall be greater than of the former, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts.

The glory of the house or temple God will build will be greater than the glory of the former physical house or temple built by Solomon and Zerubbabel. This new and more glorious temple will be built by God's spirit.

Zec 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

Truly converted Christians are the living stones of God's spiritual temple in which God and the Word live. God's NT spiritual temple is being built by God and is not any large, wealthy church organization built by men and whose priests are men who appointed themselves as priests or who were appointed by a church organization who gave itself the authority to do so.

### Final Words

OT Israel was never made the transition between having a physical high priest, Aaron and a spiritual high priest, Melchisedec. They held on to the traditions and beliefs of their forefathers. As far as they were concerned, they were God's nation and nothing could change that. They would always be God's people eagerly waiting for the promised Messiah to come to them and restore Israel to the glory it had as in the days of Solomon. When they read about the kingdom of God in the Scriptures, to them, it means the physical nation of Israel and that the Messiah when he comes would be its king.

Modern-day religionists read the Bible and see God's church as being an organization of men with the responsibility of teaching God's truth to the world. They give themselves the authority to appoint men as apostles, evangelists, preachers, etc. and consider themselves as the inheritors of the Great Commission given the apostles by Christ of preaching the Gospel to the world.

They pattern their organization on that of God's First Century Church not realizing that it was not something that was to continue. God's church was never to die out but its mode of existence would change.

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;

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

God is not speaking to His spiritual nation by men or prophets as He did in OT times; the teachers of God's spiritual nation are not men. They are God the Father and God the Word. God must be worshiped in spirit and in truth which is not something that occurs through belonging to organizations of men, observing their rituals and following their vision of what they think is God's truth.

None of them are God's spiritual nation of Israel.

Men can sometimes be a source of useful information for Christians but Christians continue to be responsible for proving all things and to resist the very human tendency to fully trust men when we have proven some of their teachings to be Biblically correct. We cannot ever cease to be spiritually vigilant nor to neglect always proving all things.

No man has absolute truth that all have to unquestioningly accept and any man or organization of men claiming that their teachings cannot be questioned are evidently frauds.

A sure sign that they are not the honest and well-intentioned would be teachers of God's truth is that preaching for them is a money making business. They insist that they are entitled to a tithe of their followers income and to monetary offerings. God calls money made by preaching, filthy lucre. Please see the following studies for more information on what importance God attaches to money in His NT spiritual nation, God's Church: [Tithing in New Testament Times](#) and [Will a Man Rob God?](#)

In NT times, God's Church is a spiritual nation taught all things by 2 spirit beings and whose worship of God is in spirit and in truth. God is worshiped by our obedience to the truth we are given to know not by belonging to any organization of men claiming to be God's Church. Your salvation depends on pleasing God not men claiming to be God's representatives.

Finally, please review the following studies where, who and what is God's Church, is explained in detail. Just click on the titles to be taken to the documents which are listed on the next page of this study.

## **References**

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

