

**GOD'S TWO
PRIESTHOODS**

VARIOUS OTHER SUBJECTS – VOL. XV

PART

**BY
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PREFACE

Those who accepted an *Old Testament* Priesthood had to sacrifice animals when they sinned. This was done without knowing God's *purpose* behind the entire process. Intercessors who beseech God are looked upon as Holy – because their office (duty) was Holy.

When did The Priesthood begin? Furthermore, why does God have two Priesthoods instead of one? Seemingly, Abraham was confronted by a mysterious *High Priest* named *Melchizedek* and was blessed by Him. Later, God anointed Moses' brother, Aaron, as *High Priest*. (He replaced the unknown Melchizedek). Thousands of years later, Jesus became known as Melchizedek, who was the people's intercessor when they sinned. Why are there *two Priesthoods* – both Levitical and Melchizedek? The answer to this question reveals God's Plan of Salvation.

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INTRODUCTION

It all began in The Garden of Eden with two individuals. Adam and Eve were so innocent, they didn't even know they were naked (Genesis 2:25). Everything God made was *very good* during that *creation week* and there was *no sin* (Genesis 1:31). Adam was to be *a type* of Christ (Romans 5:14). Adam and Eve could have set the example for all future generations *to live with God in Paradise, forever*. However, Adam and Eve sinned and as a result, *death entered* the picture (Romans 5:12).

Sin And Transgression

Some are not aware that *sin* and *transgression* are not the same thing. “*For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law*” (Romans 5:13). There is a *difference* between *sin* and breaking *The Law*. *The Law* was not *codified*, or *in force*, until four hundred and thirty years after Abraham. Abraham lived around 2000 B.C. and *The Law* was given around 1500 B.C. Therefore, how could sin reign without *The Law*? Sin reigned because “*sin was and is the transgression of the law*” (I John 3:4). The basic meaning of “*sin*,” in Hebrew, is “*to miss the mark!*”

Sin is a *transgression*. But it is also something else. It is the condition of *not meeting God's requirements for life*. These *requirements* are not trespasses but *gifts* from God. *They are free*. These are God's *spiritual* or *heavenly gifts* (Ephesians 1:3). “*The Torah*,” in Hebrew means “*a teaching – the way or path to life*.” By your actions, you can sin and miss the mark leading to life (Galatians 3:19, 24-25).

The Torah is not The Law. The Law was added to The Torah four hundred and thirty years after Abraham. It is The Book of Deuteronomy. This covenant was not made with the fathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Deuteronomy 5:3). It was only made with The Nation of Israel because they had a wrong heart (Deuteronomy 5:29).

The Israelites were subject to being identified as *criminals*. “That the law is not made for a righteous man but for lawless and disobedient [the unrighteous]” (I Timothy 1:9). Codified or written Laws must be made only when people have a *wrong* or *sinful nature*. In the end, they always miss the mark leading to *life* and, therefore, they *die*. Once Adam and Eve had *sinned*, *they*, and *everyone else* who had *sinned* afterward, are *destined to die*. They missed the mark for acquiring *life*.

What was that mark? Christ gave the answer to the question about *sin*. He said, “*It is all evident, by discerning which tree they eat from*” (Matthew 7:17-20) (paraphrased). “*You shall know them by their fruits*” (Matthew 7:16). A good tree produces *good fruit – life* – while a bad tree produces *bad fruit – death*. How simple! There is no dogma! Salvation has nothing to do with Law or Doctrine. Salvation is given through *grace* and, therefore, it is a *free gift*. Humans cannot do anything to achieve it except have *faith* and *trust in God*.

You either eat from the right tree, which will nourish you to receive *life* or you eat from the tree which has *no nourishment* – and then you will *die*. Even a child is able to understand this. God, from the begin-

ning, offered everyone either *life* or *death*. The *choice* started with Adam and Eve and was passed on to *all humanity*. Eve is *the mother of us all*. To this very day, it is *not* a matter of Law, but a *choice of which tree you choose to eat*. Do you choose *life* or *death*? The Tree of Life gives you gifts and nourishment for *life*. The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil poisons you to death. If you eat from the wrong tree, then you will surely die. The Tree of Life allows your human nature to change, which gives you the power to attain *life*.

The Priesthood

Paul defines the need for a functioning Priesthood. Once sin (missing the mark) entered, God had to implement a system to restore what had been *lost*. Christ came to restore this lost element (Matthew 18:11). *Life* was lost when Adam and Eve no longer had access to God's *unmerited riches* and *heavenly gifts* – The Tree of Life. *Reconciliation to God* was now required. The Priesthood was *instituted* by God. “*Jesus, The Christ*” in the Greek language means “*The Savior, The Anointed One.*” “*Joshua*” in Hebrew is “*Savior.*” “*The Christ*” is a *title* declaring how The Anointed One will reconcile you to God. He is The High Priest. (Read about His commission in Romans 5:1). Paul said, Jesus is The One *justifying* you – so you can have *peace* and *rest* with God.

Because of Christ, you receive *grace* (mercy) when you sin (miss the mark of righteousness). *Righteousness*, through Christ, is *your goal*, so you can enter *The Kingdom of Rest* (Ephesians 4:13). Jesus set the example for revealing *the way to life*. With *agapè love* you can become *Holy* and be without blame. That is

the goal or mark – to have *life*. This *righteousness* is only achieved by God being *All In All* (I Corinthians 15:28). No human Laws, deeds or efforts can achieve God’s *Holy perfect righteousness*. It is only through *faith* and it is given as a *gift of grace*. Therefore, an active Priesthood was predestined by God because of *the weakness of the flesh*. This flesh is not only human – but, in some ways, it can be very much like that of an animal.

Therefore, God prepared a physical fleshly body as a sacrifice for everyone who *missed the mark* (Hebrews 10:5-7). The Priesthood was *forever ordained* by God because of mankind’s weakness in human flesh (Hebrews 7:18-27). *The Priesthood* is defined as, “*For every high priest taken from among men [human] is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. Who can have compassion [grace] on the ignorant [atheists and agnostics] and on them that are out of the way [sin]; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity [weakness]*” (Hebrews 5:1-2). Christ shows you *the way to life*. In this day and age, God accepts a Melchizedek High Priest and not a Levitical High Priest who would perform the animal sacrifices for sin. This Melchizedek High Priest must have the following qualifications:

- 1) Chosen from among human men. Christ was born a human and became *The Author of Life*.
- 2) Ordained for men. The purpose of The High Priest is to atone for mankind’s sin as a penalty or a *reminder* for humans they have sinned.

- 3) To make mankind acceptable to God. Sacrifice is helpful to keep a person aware he/she is *unrighteous*.
- 4) Offering *gifts* and *sacrifices* to God for sin when someone has *missed the mark* leading to life. These sacrifices (till Jesus) only reminded them they were still sinners.
- 5) Who can have grace? Those who are ignorant but choose to repent, ask for mercy and keep making the right choices; from then on, they can receive grace.

The Priesthood is a vital process for initiating human redemption – which is to bring individuals to God by continually reminding them of their *human nature*. Animals were *sacrificed* to represent the nature of their *animal behavior*: such as a lion, leopard or bear (the most violent) or an ox (stubborn) and a goat (always resisting). That is why prophecy denotes wild beasts as *unclean* and farm animals as *clean*. Only the clean animals were used for the priestly animal sacrifices.

All Animals Cleansed

Peter had an amazing vision while in a trance. This experience is found in Acts 10. In vision, Peter saw God lower a sheet with all types of animals in it, both wild and domesticated. Three times God told Peter to *eat* every kind of *beast*. Because of his prior religious training, Peter objected. Then God told Peter, “*What God has cleansed, that call not thou common*” (Acts 10:15). So a time of change was occurring in The Priesthood. This change of Priesthood required

a change of Law (Hebrews 7:12). Here is what Peter learned from this dream, “*Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that fears him and works righteousness, is accepted with [by] Him*” (Acts 10:34-35). In accepting these Gentiles, *God was changing The Priesthood* from The Levitical Priesthood to The Melchizedek Priesthood. Hence, *The Law* then changes from *animal sacrifice* to *Christ’s sacrifice*. With Christ’s death, *mercy* could be given. This new Priesthood accomplishes what The Levitical Priesthood could not. Jesus was the truth leading to life. The Mosaic Law only explained what sin was (John 1:17). It never could change anyone.

God Changes Prophecies

In The Garden of Eden, because there was *no sin*, no Priesthood was necessary. Once *sin* (missing the mark) entered the world, then a Priesthood was mandated. Later, Israel and Judah, God’s *people*, were in captivity as slaves. This condition of bondage would bring them to willingly change. Much later, God sought people from *all nations* who feared Him and were willing to work toward becoming *righteous*. Genealogy was no longer an issue. With the baptism of Cornelius, a Gentile, *The Kingdom of God* was now opened to *all nations*.

God gave *The Law* so Israel could see that they couldn’t keep it. You are told how *prophecies will and do fail* (I Corinthians 13:8). From the Greek language, the original word was translated into the English as “*fail*” – which means “*to stop*” or “*pause.*” Since humans always have *free choice*, God changes the direction of

His *prophecy* according to their behavior. He causes prophecy to pause or to stop – until humans make the right choice. Then, God will complete His *prophecies*. From the time when there was no Priesthood and when no sin existed down to the time of there being *two* Priesthoods, you learn how God initiated Laws with different *goals* or *objectives*. You are about to learn how God fulfills His *prophecy* through *two different Priesthoods*. Each has a *different purpose*.

CHAPTER 1

GOD'S REST

God begins with mankind existing in a perfect state. From the beginning, Adam and Eve were in Paradise. They were in God's *rest*, or His *kingdom*. There was no sin. There was "no mark to hit" but only a choice. Everything was very good (Genesis 1:31).

Innocence

Adam and Eve were created as human adults but they had not matured psychologically or spiritually. They had not experienced *life in the flesh*. They were free to do whatever they thought or desired. They were innocent like children. Physically, they were at the height of human power and agility. Remember, at this point, God's *entire creation was pristine and very good* (Genesis 1:31).

God created humanity in His *image*, but He knew *spiritual maturity* was *vital* in order for them to be given *eternal life*. *Spiritual growth was needed for them to live in an eternal paradise*. Maturity needed to occur for this first couple so they could enter into such a *powerful state* (Ephesians 1:3-4). Adam and Eve needed to develop absolute *faith* and trust in God by their *free choice*.

God's *purpose* was to make all mankind become just

like Him – to insure a stable *Paradise* for His *entire creation*. God was to be *All In All* (I Corinthians 15:28). Adam and Eve, in their *innocence*, needed *spiritual growth* to take place to insure *Salvation* (to be able to be in *The Kingdom of God*). Everything they needed was in The Garden of Eden. They had *free choice* to do whatever they wished. Always remember, they always had the opportunity to choose The Tree of Life (spiritual maturity).

Sin

Adam and Eve were innocent like little children. God warned them, just as any loving parent, about what was *safe* and what was *dangerous*. At this point, they could not function on their own. God was in The Garden with them to teach, guide and protect them. Since they were *spiritually immature*, they were *not ready* to eat from The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. They were not ready to have *complete liberty* to decide right from wrong. God simply told them they could eat from every tree in The Garden – but not from The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they did, they would die. He told them to eat from The Tree of Life – so they would *live forever*.

Human nature, when left to itself, does not have the wisdom to discern the difference between *good* and *evil*. *Sin* was now an alternative. They could *miss the mark* and *die*. At this point, it was not a Law but rather a matter of *free choice*. The sin they committed was eating from the wrong tree, which automatically produces death. The *penalty* was *automatic* rather

than something carried out by God. Laws cannot be enforced without a stated penalty. To live *eternally*, this first couple needed to be *given eternal life* as a *gift*. A Law requires you to do something which produces a specified outcome and it will be either *good* or *bad*. Eating a poisonous fruit will kill on its own without a codified law. A person is not guilty when a law is unknown (John 9:41).

However, a person who eats a poisonous fruit will pay some kind of penalty. Laws are made and, therefore, the penalty can be *carried out*. To disobey a Law is a *transgression*. Adam and Eve had *disobeyed a command*. A *sin* produces *automatic penalties by its very action*. Sin entered the world by *one man's action* (Romans 5:12-13). Adam missed the mark of *eternal life* and so *all humanity* lost access to The Tree of Life. *It wasn't a transgression of a law*, but their faulty choice was a big mistake. Their human nature, ultimately, led them to death.

It is like when a child is told not to touch a hot stove. This is not based upon *Law* but on *experience*. Any time you touch a hot stove you will get burned. When you break a law, it doesn't always immediately cause a curse. If you *miss the mark*, it can be a mistake which can be forgiven. A *skill* is given to you as a *gift*. Paul said "*all men have sinned and will die*" – there is no other ending. But, it was not a *commanded Law* with a curse. Sin was not *imputed* when there was *no law*. An example would be when you cross the middle of a street. In some cities, it is not against the law, yet in other cities, you can get a ticket. Since God is not

imputing sin as a Law, He has given grace because of His glorious purpose. God declares He will fulfill His pleasure just as He predestined believers to be Holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4 and Isaiah 46:10).

Train Up A Child

Proverbs 22:6 promises, “*Train up a child in the way [Torah] he should go: and when he is old [mature], he will not depart from it.*” Because of Adam and Eve’s sin, God had to decide on a *different plan* for their descendants, “*That in the dispensation of the fulness [completeness] of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in him*” (Ephesians 1:10). Either way, it was in God’s *plan* for Him to be *All In All* (I Corinthians 15:28). This world is experiencing a great deal of sin. Because of Adam and Eve’s sin, God’s *end-game* plan is to bring everyone to Christ. God trains you, as a little child, to bring you to *spiritual maturity*. In this way, when you are older, you will never turn from it. That is *spiritual maturity* or having a *mind with true wisdom – God’s mind*.

At one point or another, you must stop and make a conscious realization about what a loving Father you have and what He wants for you. When Adam and Eve were removed from The Garden of Eden and lost access to The Tree of Life, God then began to *train* them. Adam and Eve were like children and were not very teachable; so, they disobeyed. God initiated His *training system*, which is designed to make all their lineage have the choice to be *teachable* or *not*.

An Important Event

Years passed after Adam and Eve were removed from God's *rest* in The Garden. They had two children: Cain, their *firstborn* and Abel, the younger. You find them, as grown men, still living in Eden while their other brothers and sisters had left Eden. They had no access to The Tree of Life because *Cherubims* protected the entry way to it (Genesis 3:24 and Ezekiel 10:5). God, however, was still with them. They both were spiritually immature. They were not living in The Land of Nod – the wilderness. They still lived in Eden while most of their offspring had moved to Nod. Adam and Eve, along with their progeny, must become reconciled to God before they can be restored to The Tree of Life and The Garden. Everyone must become as teachable children. They must trust God. That is *true faith*.

The clue to their predicament was *sin*. Man could dwell with God but only after the destruction of sin and their resurrection (I Corinthians 15). What is God's *system* which will bring mankind back to The Garden? In answer to that, you read, "*How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*" (Hebrews 9:14). You need God's *spirit* to be able to change. So, your Heavenly Father determined *the best path* for you was through The Blood of Christ, which restores and reconciles you to The One True God.

Jesus, The Christ, has *The Keys to The Kingdom*. That

is what Christ asked Peter in Matthew 16:15-19. Jesus is Joshua, The Savior, The Christ, and The Anointed High Priest. That is why Jesus said He came *to restore what was lost*. For everyone to enter God's *rest* (The True Seventh Day Sabbath Delight), a Priesthood is necessary. You will be amazed, but The Two Priesthoods are required so a person can have access to God's *house*. Both deal with those who are on *the pathway to God's house* – but they are in different *spiritual* conditions. Once they *spiritually mature* like Jesus, then they, themselves, can become Priests (I Peter 2:9).

The biblical scene explodes with *two grown young men*, Cain and Abel (Genesis 4). Cain was a tiller of the soil, while Abel was a sheep rancher. Each decided to give an offering to God. Both offerings were acceptable according to *The Law*. Cain offered the fruit of the ground and Abel offered sheep without blemish. Both offerings were from their own labor. This made sense. Why did God accept Abel's offering over Cain's? The biblical answer is, "*By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he [Abel] was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh*" (Hebrews 11:4). Wow! This is a sacrifice concerning The Two Priesthoods. Abel's sacrifice was acceptable because of *his faith*, while Cain lacked that same *faith*. The sacrifices were not the issue – rather it was their *faith*. Abel, as God knew, had more *faith* than Cain. That is the reason God warned Cain concerning his human nature. God told Cain that "*sin lies at the door*" (Genesis 4:7). Christians are saved by faith! That's it. You must trust God completely.

When God accepted Abel's sacrifice over Cain's offering, then Cain *highly resented* it and showed his *displeasure*. Cain felt, as *firstborn*, he should have been accepted instead of his younger brother. That is why God told Cain that an individual's human nature can cause a person to *sin*. Everyone, therefore, must overcome sin by having *the right attitude* – which makes a person able to *repent*. Abel had a *right heart* so he had *faith* in God. God did not need to tell Abel to *repent*. Cain proved the true depths of his *faithless, wrong heart* by murdering Abel. These offerings were much more than mere *sacrifices*. These offerings had to do with The Two Priesthoods – The Levitical and The Melchizedek. One Priesthood was about *dead works*, denoting human nature before *repentance* – Levitical Priesthood. The second Priesthood required repentance and having *faith* but *without works* – Melchizedek. Abel had that faith and became a High Priest after The Order of Melchizedek. He is not Melchizedek, which is Christ, but he is of The Order of that Priesthood (I Peter 2:9).

CHAPTER 2

WHY TWO PRIESTHOODS?

The Aaronic Priesthood of The Tribe of Levi is determined through human parents, but The Melchizedek Priesthood is not chosen by genealogy. The Melchizedek Priesthood was ordained through an oath by God. Why did God institute *two different* Priesthoods? Why wasn't only one Priesthood sufficient to offer sacrifices for sins?

Remember, *sin* requires *no Law*. Adam and Eve sinned (missed the mark) even though there was *no codified Law* in force. Sin is *missing the mark* of God's *purpose and goal*. A transgression infringes upon *certain rights* such as A Law. Adam and Eve could choose to eat from either *tree*. God's *will* is to destroy everything that keeps you from His *kingdom* and your chance for *Salvation*. The Priesthoods would *intervene* on behalf of mankind's *weakness* which prevents God from completing His predestined *plan*. The Two Priesthoods, therefore, are mandatory to achieve God's *goal*. The Levitical Priesthood was A Priesthood of Works and was designed to lead The Israelites to repentance and Christ.

Many Books

A great portion of *The Bible* covers The Levitical Priesthood *under* Aaron, The High Priest. But, Melchizedek, as The High Priest, was a complete *mys-*

tery. The Bible, seemingly, reveals very little about The Priesthood of Melchizedek. Many Christians do not understand much about Melchizedek and *the order* of this Priesthood. The reason Melchizedek is unknown is because God wanted it to be *a mystery*. It was meant only for *the repentant* to understand. You may think *a sacrifice* is *merely a sacrifice*. But what do The Priesthoods have to do with *sacrifice*?

Surprisingly, scholars and many ancient books have much to say about Melchizedek. In fact, The Catholic and Orthodox *faiths* base their Priestly functions upon The Melchizedek Priesthood. *The Book of Enoch* gives you insight into The Melchizedek Priesthood. In ancient times, Enoch was The 7th Prophet of God (Jude 14). There were six Sons of God listed before Enoch (Genesis 5). The Dead Sea Scrolls and Gnostic *writings* tell all about Melchizedek. Even The Mormon "*faith*" is based upon the principle of The Two Priesthoods – The Aaronic and The Melchizedek. The Jewish religion accepts Shem as being Melchizedek, believing he lived for 800 years. *The Anchor Bible* states he may have lived for only 625 years. In either case, he lived during Abraham's day and beyond. The early fathers, like Origen, Eusebius and others, had more to say about Melchizedek than *The Bible* does. The major biblical verses about Melchizedek is when He blessed Abraham in *The Book of Genesis* (Genesis 17-24).

To learn more about The Melchizedek Priesthood, read Psalm 2, Psalm 110 and The Book of Hebrews. You will read about its *superiority* over The Levitical

Priesthood and the angels. That's about it. Any other revelation in the scriptures must be *gleaned*, because the texts relate to other *offices* given by God. With Melchizedek, *in the light of The Davidic Kingly Line*, God specifically promised that *a royal seed* would exist forever (according to the genealogy of David) (Psalm 110). The only royal line extending downward from David which could be everlasting is that of Jesus, The Christ. The eternal continuation of David's kingship is only through Christ. The prophecy of David's kingship continues forever (Jesus, as Melchizedek – Psalm 110). Both Melchizedek and Levi are concerned with atoning for *sin* through *sacrifices*. The more *The Bible* discusses these two Priesthoods, the clearer God's *pre-determined purpose* becomes.

The Weakness

Both Priesthoods were created for individuals who disobeyed God and His *commandments*. In other words, sinners need a Priesthood. The High Priest for both Priesthoods was allowed to enter *The Holy of Holies*. The Aaronic High Priest could only do so once a year, on *The Day of Atonement*. Christ, The Melchizedek High Priest, at His crucifixion, was responsible for the torn veil which had covered *The Holy of Holies*. Consequently, Jesus now entered the area reserved for *the mercy seat*. Christ did this for you and everyone else. That is the primary difference between *The Two Priesthoods*.

The Aaronic Priesthood demanded an animal sacrifice, so no mercy could be given. A curse or judg-

ment was demanded according to *the severity of the transgression*. Christ's *sacrifice* removed all these curses, including death. Then, *mercy* was available to everyone.

The Holy *items* in The Temple are summarized in Hebrews 9. Only *The Holy of Holies* contained *the mercy seat*. The Levitical Priesthood had access only once a year when The Nation of Israel came for *the purging of their sins*. Paul said animal sacrifice cannot take away sins (Hebrews 10:1-4). It was a yearly reminder that they were still not perfect. The meaning of this reminder depended upon *the animal* that was *sacrificed*. The Levitical Priesthood could not change the weakness of the flesh. All it could do was *remind* sinners of their transgressions. *The Law* defined *sin* as *a transgression*. *Sin* misses the mark for eternal life. Always remember, *The Law* could never transform anyone to *perfection*. *The Law* defines "sin" as "*the transgression of The Law*" (I John 3:4). *The Law*, itself, can do nothing to make you *perfect* or *righteous*. That was *the weakness of The Law*. It changed *nothing* – and *it will never change anyone*, no matter how many sacrifices are offered.

Reason For Animal Sacrifice

God taught Peter the real difference between clean and unclean animals (Acts 10). Peter understood that God uses animals (wild and domestic) to illustrate the different types of human behavior. Wild animals, such as lions, bears and leopards, are very violent beasts. Oxen and goats can be domesticated but they still re-

sist by being stubborn or kicking and bucking. Only sheep allow themselves to be slaughtered. Each animal, as a beast, is reactive to its own behavior. Peter was told, regardless of one's behavior, whether as a clean or unclean animal, God will accept individuals who fear Him and are working towards *righteousness*. No longer does God discriminate by genealogy. If you repent, you can become one of God's *people*. The Priesthood of Melchizedek differs from Levi in regard to sacrifices. God accepts people of all nations who fear Him and strive to be righteous (Acts 10:35). But then, God was seeking a different sacrifice which was Christ's body (Hebrews 10).

A Body

“In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin you have had no pleasure” (Hebrews 10:6). God takes no pleasure in animal sacrifice – which is the slaughter of any animal. Why not? It is because the killing of animals never makes a difference in human nature. Those who *sacrificed animals* still kept *sinning*. Sacrifice changed *no one*. *The Law* discloses that the transgressor's sacrifice only remind them that they are like the very animals they slaughtered. They are only *sanctified* through *the offering* of The Body of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:10). How can the killing of *one human* pay for every other human's sins? It is because Jesus is *The Author or The Way* to follow as *the example to perfection* (Hebrews 12:2). Each person must become like Christ in order to be saved. That is why, after the rich man said he kept *The Commandments*, Christ told him, *“If you will be perfect, go and sell that you*

have and give to the poor and you shall have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me" (Matthew 19:21). What makes you *perfect* is when you *follow* Jesus by *living exactly like Him* and being willing to *die for* others, if need be (just as He did). That is the example of The Priesthood of Melchizedek – laying down one's life for God and others. Jesus was *The Firstfruit, The Author of Salvation*, "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive*" (I Corinthians 15:22). Clearly, this is the difference between The Two Priesthoods. One is for *unrepentant people with wrong hearts* who need to be told the difference between *good* and *evil*. The sacrifice of animals merely illustrated to them the type of animal behavior they emulated. But, they were still carnal and remained like beasts. (Read the book, *Discovering God*, for more information). The Aaronic Priesthood was designed to bring you to Christ – but The Priesthood of Melchizedek takes you to *perfection* (Galatians 3:24).

God *scripturally* reveals that *spiritual growth* varies according to your heart or desires (Proverbs 18:1-2). He works with you, on an *individual level*, to make you Holy and sinless (Ephesians 1). Two Priesthoods (Levitical and Melchizedek) are *employed* by God as intermediate steps to bring you to *perfection*. The Aaronic, as a type or shadow, will *lead you to Christ*. Melchizedek can bring you to the place whereby you can *be like Christ* (Matthew 5:48).

CHAPTER 3

THE AARONIC PRIESTHOOD

Why did God wait until the time of Moses to establish The Priesthood of Aaron through The Levites? Sin (transgressions) had always existed with humans, so a *functioning* Priesthood was needed. The Order of Melchizedek was present during the life-time of Abraham. No other Priest of God was mentioned up to that time.

Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, was a Priest of Midian. It is very likely that he was of The Order of Melchizedek, since no other Priesthood was mentioned. Either way, no other Priesthood was ordained by God.

A Change Of Priesthood

It is through Jethro (who lived by Mount Horeb) that Moses had his encounter with *the flaming bush* on Holy ground. Only God is Holy, and therefore, only He can make you Holy – by you coming into the presence of His *glory*. God's *glory* is *all* of His *goodness*. (Study Exodus 1 through 20). When Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh, they asked him to let Israel go so they could offer sacrifices and worship God. God's *presence* was there. Moses lived with Jethro (who was his Priest) for forty years just as he had lived in Egypt for forty years while being *trained in their Egyptian* customs

and learning about all their different *gods*. The difference was that Jethro lived as God's Priest (Exodus 18:1). Moses accepted Jethro's advice with regards to ruling Israel (Exodus 18). It was Jethro who gave Moses the *idea* for *The Oral Law*, which concerned the *smaller matters* of God's Law. However, *Jethro* specifically said, "*Hearken now to my voice, I will give you counsel and God shall be with you: Be you for the people to God-ward, that you may bring the causes to God: And you shall teach them ordinances and laws and shall show them the way wherein they must walk and the work that they must do*" (Exodus 18:19-20). Jethro knew God had Laws and Ordinances.

This does not sound like a suggestion. Rather, Jethro told Moses, directly, that if he accepted his counsel, God would be with him. Jethro could only have been a Priest from God to make such a *bold statement*. Then, Jethro recommended that smaller matters should be handled by *the leaders* of Israel. This certainly seems to refer to *The Oral Laws*. Then, Jethro ended with these final words, "*If you shall do this thing and God command you so, then you shall be able to endure and all this people shall also go to their place in peace*" (Exodus 18:23). Moses must have accepted Jethro's words (as from God). Here is what Moses did, "*So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said*" (Exodus 18:24). Then, these leaders of Israel became *Judges*. The Office of Judges seem to have originated with Jethro (Exodus 18:26).

Jethro was *not a pagan priest* but a Priest of God, so God had him counsel Moses. Moses accepted the

counsel as if it were approved by God. Once again, this was a Priest of God in The Order of Melchizedek. (Abraham existed before The Levitical Priesthood). But a change of Priesthood was about to take place. Moses and Jethro separated from each other (Exodus 18:27). Jethro left Moses and went to his own land. Some day, it will be interesting to know the true history of Jethro. At this time, a new Priesthood was to be established to replace The Priesthood of The Order of Melchizedek. This new Priesthood – The Levitical Priesthood – was to be placed under Aaron. Jethro may have been one of *the last* of The Priests of The Melchizedek Order (until Christ).

The prophecy concerning this change was, “*Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise: your hand shall be in the neck of your enemies; your father’s children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the prey, my son, you are gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and to him shall the gathering of the people be*” (Genesis 49:8-10). What a wonderful prophecy concerning The Jews. Before Jacob’s death, this was part of his prophecy concerning The Twelve Tribes of Israel.

The prophecy is in reference to *The Last Days* which began with Christ’s *human lifetime* on earth (Genesis 49:1). (This ties in with Daniel 2). It is *the last beast* (Rome) *of the great image* representing *The Times of The Gentiles* (Hebrews 1:1-2). Christ was going to shed His *blood* for all mankind (Genesis 49:11-12).

Judah's Repentance

When Joseph's brothers left him to die, Judah (The Jews) came up with the idea to make money by selling Joseph (Genesis 37:26-27). Judah said to his brothers, "*Why should we kill Joseph and not make some money on him?*" (paraphrased). Then, Judah said, "*Let us sell him to the Ishmeelites [The Arabs] and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh*" (Genesis 37:27). The brothers agreed with him. This was both *good* and *bad*. Judah saved Joseph from being murdered – but he had an ulterior motive (to make money on the *transaction*). Judah finally repented of his evil deed when he offered himself as *a pledge* for his youngest brother's life (Benjamin). Because Benjamin was the youngest, Jacob loved him deeply. Since Judah knew he had been the one who sold Joseph into slavery, he was, then, making restitution for *his sin of greed*. Later, Judah offered his life for Benjamin and finally was brought to repentance. Because of this act by Judah, The Jews were to become teachers of The Law until Shiloh came (The House of God) (Genesis 49:10). They were responsible for God's *laws* until Christ, The Anointed High Priest, came to give His *life*. A change of Priesthood and a change of *The Law* was at hand.

A Wrong Heart

When Israel left Egypt, God's *intention* was to have His chosen people enter His *physical rest* in The Land of Canaan. *The sins of The Amorites* had come to pass (just as God told Abraham) and it was time to remove

them from The Land of Palestine. (When a nation refuses to look to God and worship Him instead of His *creation*, they lose the opportunity to stay in their land). **When Israel sent spies into Canaan, they were frightened because of Canaan's huge numbers** (including giants)! **Only Joshua and Caleb had *the faith* to trust God and were willing to take over the land.** **Because of Israel's *lack of faith*, God decided to test them for *forty years* in the wilderness** (Hebrews 3:8-9). **They initially feared God at Mount Horeb when they personally received *The Ten Commandments*.** **After that shocking incident of God speaking directly to the nation, they only wanted to learn through Moses what God wanted them to know** (Exodus 20).

When Moses went up the mountain to receive *The Ten Commandments*, written on stone tablets, Israel sinned by building and worshipping the golden calf. **God wanted to kill them and build His *nation* through Moses** (of The Tribe of Levi) (Exodus 32:10). **So Moses felt compelled to intercede on Israel's behalf.** **At that time, God *added The Law of Moses to The Torah* with *the statutes and judgments*.** ***The Law of Moses* became a *legal matter* in God's court.** **No longer were God's *Commandments and Statutes* a *matter of faith*.** **Every aspect of *The Law* had *legal requirements* within it and they had to be performed exactly.** **Breaking any part of *The Law* broke *all of The Law*** (James 2:10). **It gave *no mercy* with its administration** (Exodus 23:21). ***The Law* was made for *unrighteous* humans** (who acted like animals and kept doing all the wrong things) (I Timothy 1:7-10). **Those with a *wrong heart* had to be told the difference between *right* and *wrong*.**

This was because of their *wrong nature*. God wished they had a *right heart* when He first gave them His *Ten Commandments*. God said, “*O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear me and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them and with their children forever*” (Deuteronomy 5:29). But, because they *lacked faith*, that generation never entered God’s *rest* and instead perished in the wilderness (Hebrews 3:10-11). God even changed the meaning of The Sabbath for them. Israel was to remember The Sabbath, because God created the earth for man in six days and then rested on *The Seventh Day* in *Paradise* (Exodus 20:11). Initially, this was why Israel was told to keep The Sabbath. After Israel *lacked faith* and *sinned*, keeping The Sabbath had an entirely different meaning. The Sabbath had a different purpose when Israel received *the second set of stone tablets*.

The *added Law of Moses* to *The Torah* said this, “*And remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the LORD your God brought you out through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day*” (Deuteronomy 5:15). These are two different versions of The Sabbath. The Sabbath that Abraham was told to keep, by *faith*, dealt with *Paradise*. But now *the added Law of Moses* was a keeping of God’s *Sabbath* (as coming out of *slavery*). It was a Sabbath for man’s *rest* rather than God’s *rest*. What a difference! God’s *Sabbath* is a memorial or a *sign of Paradise*. Now, *the sign* of The Sabbath was represented by coming out of slavery into a period of *rest* from that slavery. A change of Priesthood was to take place when Christ

came. Now, a *law* was imputed for *sin* as a *transgression* which included their *human works*.

Purpose Of The Law

The Law of Moses (*The Law* administered by Moses) had a different purpose and was supported by a different Priesthood. That difference is revealed in *The Scriptures*. The Book of Hebrews was written to show *the superiority* of Melchizedek over Levi's Priesthood. Here is the answer, "*And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony [witness] of those things which were to be spoken after*" (Hebrews 3:5). *The Law of Moses* was to be a witness to bring you to Christ (Galatians 3:24). It is quite simple! *The Law of Moses*, administered by The Aaronic Priesthood, was a *shadow* or *type* of what Christ would do when He came as Melchizedek. This *would, could* and *will make you perfect*. God's *Law*, administered by Christ, is now written in your *heart* and *mind*. There were no more *Old Covenant works* which were needed to pay for sins. Your very mind and heart must be changed by God's *Holy Spirit* when you ask God for help through prayer. The Holy Spirit will help you to not *even think* of lying, stealing, murdering or dishonoring your parents or God. The Levitical Priesthood, in The Keeping of *The Law*, was only a *shadow*. *The Law*, under Moses, was only a *shadow* or *type* of *good things to come* (Christ) (Hebrews 10:1). Every aspect of *The Law of Moses* manifested in Jesus and what He was to do. That is the purpose of The Levitical Priesthood. The Law of Moses demonstrated not only Jesus, The Christ, but God's *wonderful Plan of Salvation*.

CHAPTER 4

MANY COVENANTS – DIFFERENT PRIESTHOODS

Jesus summarized what Christianity really is (Matthew 7:13-21). He said all *The Law (Torah)*, *The Prophets*, and the entire *Old Testament* comes down to this simple truth, “*Therefore all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets*” (Matthew 7:12). Jesus quoted *The Golden Rule*. Christ spelled out what Christianity was all about. He said, to enter God’s house you must eat the fruit from the right tree. Christ said *The Path* is straight and without detours. He warned that unless a Christian walks that way, he will not be able to enter through the gate to God’s house – or to be in *The Kingdom of God*. He clearly declared, “*You shall know them by their fruits*” (Matthew 7:16).

Alpha And Omega

The Book of Revelation declares God and Christ are Alpha and Omega – *the beginning and the end*. *The Bible* starts in *The Garden* with *The Tree of Life* and *The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil*. *The*

***Bible* ends in The Garden, with only The Tree of Life. There will be no Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil in the distant future. Why would this be?**

Once Adam and Eve were expelled from The Garden, mankind began writing history by doing both *good* and *evil*. This is *Babylon* which is *your human nature* (Genesis 11:6-7). When human history finally ends, everyone will bow down and confess to The Glory of God that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11). There will no longer be any need for The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. Everyone will know *better*. All will have confessed Jesus is The *Master or Lord of Salvation* (I Corinthians 15:22-23).

God declares *the beginning* from *the end* and everything will be just as He had planned (Isaiah 46:10). You have just been exposed to the meaning and purpose of *the entire Bible*. Christians will be known by their fruits. What fruits are these? This concerns *The Great Commandment* which was given to Israel, *The Shema* (an affirmation of Judaism and a declaration of faith in *One God*) which is the goal (Deuteronomy 6:5). When you love God with all your heart and mind, you will also love and take care of all His *creation*. You will follow His loving *great purpose*. Anything less is *sin* or *missing the mark*. God's eventual *purpose* is to be *All In All* (I Corinthians 15:28).

Many Covenants

As a Christian, in what covenant or contract is your personal *sticking point*? What is causing you a prob-

lem? You are about to see that God, throughout *history*, makes many *contracts* or *covenants* with *mankind*. Which *desire* will a Christian focus upon and end up causing a problem?

In The Garden, God made Adam and Eve aware of *their free choice* concerning *the two trees*. One tree gave *Eternal Life*, while the other tree gave *death*. There was no need for a Priesthood since there was no sin (Genesis 1). After the flood, because there had been violence in the pre-flood world, God gave a commandment against murder. This was The Noachian Covenant which was between mankind and God. God personally taught His *people* about *The Commandments* and *Statutes*, without curses or judgments being added (Genesis 26:5). Abraham kept *The Commandments* and *Statutes* by *faith*, because he *trusted* God. As yet, there were no *legal requirements*, only their *free choice through faith*.

While with Moses, The Children of Israel *sinned* so God gave them *The Old Covenant* as a *Legal Codified Law*. They were not allowed to break any part of it or else they were guilty of transgressing *the whole Law* (James 2:10). *The Old Covenant* was made only with Israel and not with their fathers (Deuteronomy 5:3). The fathers included Adam, Abraham, Jacob, and Isaac. There was no *Old Covenant* until Moses came onto the scene. Before Moses, everyone was under *The New Covenant* (while waiting for Christ). That was *The Priesthood of Melchizedek*. Since sin was involved, *The Priesthood* was *changed* from Melchizedek to Aaron. This Priesthood could not make anyone

perfect, since it was only *a type* or *shadow* of Christ to come (Hebrews 10). You can see how God made many *covenants* and/or *agreements* with mankind.

Parable Of The Talents

Each *covenant* fulfilled different purposes depending upon the condition of mankind at that particular time. Why did God alter His *agreements* with the world? It is because there is a *wrong desire* in everyone's heart which destroys wisdom (Proverbs 18:1-4). You can lose your ability to tell *right* from *wrong*. A wise person can be compared to clear, running water, constantly *cleansing itself* with each ripple. God then will change any *covenant* He decides. Deep, murky water will cloud your *reason* and *logic*. It is what *repentance* is all about. The word "*repentance*" translated from the original Greek and Hebrew language means "*a change of mind*." The process of Baptism, symbolic of the cleansing by water, will give you a *new mind* (Philippians 2:5). When your *desires* turn to God, He will not turn away from you. Now you can see different *covenants* are for different *conditions*.

Jesus gave The Parable of The Talents to teach Christians about the abilities which God gives to them (Matthew 25:14-30). Christ begins and explains how *The Kingdom of God* is a lot like this parable. Humans are given different abilities and understandings, which are likened to *talents* or *money* which can be invested. These *talents* are *different covenants*. The least investment would be to put this money in a bank and receive the promised interest, "*For the kingdom of heaven is*

as [like] a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants and delivered to them his goods” (Matthew 25:14). He gave five talents to one, to another he gave two talents and, to yet another, he gave one talent. The individual who was given the most money, invested it all and gained the greatest profit. The one who only had *one talent* was afraid to do anything with *the single talent*. So he buried the money and when *the lord* returned for his profit, he only gave back *the one talent* initially given. The lord was furious and had him thrown into *outer darkness*. Jesus tells you, through this parable, that you must continue growing until He is ready to *return*. This is the same lesson as the story about The Ten Virgins, where five are wise and five are not. The *olive oil* represents God’s *Holy Spirit* and with it, the wise keep growing *spiritually*, while the unwise do not. It is God’s *Holy Spirit* which increases your talents so you can enter *The Kingdom of God* (Matthew 24:1-13). *What is spiritual growth?* God changes His *covenants* as you increase your *spiritual talents*.

A New Covenant

God has made various *covenants* with humans, depending upon where they stand *spiritually*. God does not require of you what you cannot do. *All the covenants* with the world and Israel are decided by each and everyone’s *free choice*. A *New Covenant*, one that offered *perfection*, was needed (Hebrews 7:19). *The Law of Moses* is a *stumbling block* for some Christians. Is *The Law*, under Christ, done away with, or is it not? No, even The Muslims believe in Moses’ and God’s

Law. The Jews and some Christians believe in *The Law of Moses*. Some think *The Law of Moses* should be enforced, while others do not. You are about to find out why there are *other options*. It isn't *The Law* that is the problem, but it is a matter of which *covenant* Christians are under. If *Salvation* comes by *The Law*, then Muslims, Christians and Jews are *all saved*. You need to know if *The Keeping of The Law* can give *Salvation*? That was *The Apostles'* real question. *The Law of Moses* never made a person *perfect* and therefore could not give anyone *Salvation*. Christ tells you, it is your duty to keep *The Commandments*, but you will still be *unprofitable* to God. The word "*unprofitable*" is defined in Greek as "*useless*," just when a person has only *one talent*. *The Commandments of God* are *talents for righteousness*. But since it cannot make you perfect, then it will not give you *Salvation* (Luke 17:10). Something more is *required*. What do Christians need for *Salvation*?

What Is Spiritual Growth?

Christ reveals how you can know when you are growing *spiritually*. It is by your character or nature that you can determine *spiritual growth* (Matthew 7). It all has to do with what type of fruit you eat. What *fruit* you eat will reveal the *real you*. If you tend to be loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, have goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance which are *the fruits of God's Spirit*, then you will know you are growing *spiritually* (Galatians 5:22). Now, the question is, "*How do you eat from The Tree of Life?*" Jesus said, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of*

the mouth of God” (Matthew 4:4). Christ said He, only, spoke God’s *word* (John 14:24). Why is this? It is because He was *filled* with God’s *Holy Spirit* from His *birth* (John 3:34). When God’s *Holy Spirit* is given, it changes a person’s human nature (after repentance). It will promote *a desire* and *a yearning for you to have a change of mind*, much like an eager little child (Isaiah 28:9-10). Just what does God’s *Holy Spirit* do?

Here is your answer, “*For God has not given us the spirit of fear [cowardice]; but of power and of love and of a sound [disciplined] mind*” (II Timothy 1:7). Through God’s love, you are no longer a coward, but rather, you have *a disciplined* or *a sound mind*. A sound mind does not need a *written Law* to tell you what sin is. A *sound, logical mind* knows, by instinct, the difference between *good* and *evil*. Once you have matured in *Godly wisdom*, you can acquire God’s *sound mind* (II Timothy 1:7). You no longer need The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil, for you will begin to gain a *spiritual mind*. “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 2:5). What mind did Jesus have? The answer is ahead.

What you do in *the flesh* (by *human efforts* or works) does nothing profitable or useful (John 6:63). It is only *The Spirit “In You”* that has any value for *life* or *Salvation*. The human body can do nothing. Humanly, you can only produce *confusion* or *Babylon*. On the other hand, Christianity is a *spiritual matter* (John 4). You are warned to seek God while you can and the evil person must get rid of his or her evil thoughts (Isaiah 55:6-11). You must receive the very thoughts and

mind of God and begin to learn how He thinks. When God sends forth His *word*, it never returns *empty* but will perform (good things) as it is written. That is why Hebrews 1:3 declares, Jesus is “*the express image* [character and mind of God] *of His person.*” The Glory of God is found in all of His *goodness*. God, through *His Holy Spirit* and by your *spiritual growth*, gives you *The Very Mind of God* and Jesus Christ. Christians are to grow *spiritually* in order to have *The Mind of God, Almighty.*

CHAPTER 5

THE LEVITICAL PRIESTHOOD

Israel was the first nation God accepted to be His chosen people. They were accepted because of their forefathers – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Tribe of *Israel* experienced *the beginning of The Abrahamic Covenant*. God had promised to bless Abraham’s children. Consequently, through his progeny, the whole world would be blessed.

When Israel sinned, God had to give them *a special covenant*, because they had *a wrong heart*. He gave them *The Law* which contained numerous works and deeds that had to be kept; so, each time they sinned, they were reminded *not to sin – again*. If they sinned, then a curse was given which included *sacrifices* and even *death* for capital crimes. This Law was made for *unrighteous people* only (I Timothy 1:7-10).

A Divine Service

Israel, as God’s *people*, went to *worship* in the temple so their *sins* could be *atoned*. When Israel first sinned, God decided He would no longer lead them to *the promised land*. God’s *messenger* would now be used to lead them. This messenger would not give them any *mercy* when they sinned. A *curse* or *judgment* would

follow (Exodus 23). As Israel spent 40 years of trial in *the wilderness*, God would meet with Moses in the tabernacle, where His *glory* appeared (Exodus 33). God would direct Moses regarding His people and what he should tell them. After the forty years (a generation of testing the adult Israelites), they all died in *the wilderness*. Then there was another problem. Their children still lacked *faith* in God. They also had *a wrong heart*. That older rebellious generation did not enter God's *rest* (Hebrews 3:9-11). Under Joshua, the new generation of Israelites, called the children of Israel, were the ones who entered The Land of Canaan which God originally planned as His *promised land*.

They had to be *circumcised* and had to keep every detail of God's Law along with its *works*. In time, when Solomon reigned, God allowed them to replace *the mobile tabernacle* with a permanent *temple*. This *temple*, with *The Law of Moses*, was intended to lead them to Christ (when He was to be The Messiah) (Galatians 3:24).

Now you will read why *the temple worship* was so vital for Israel (because of their wrong hearts). "*The Holy Ghost [Spirit] this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing: Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience*" (Hebrews 9:8-9).

The Law was a witness or type of *The True Sabbath*

Rest in The Kingdom of God. This continued as long as *the physical temple* was still standing. *The Law*, with all its *temple services*, was *divine* (Holy works and services) (Hebrews 9:1). *The Law* had to be perfectly kept, so Israel could be God's *chosen nation* and serve as a witness (testimony) to the world. Anything less than keeping *The Law perfectly* would be considered *sin* (James 2:10).

God's House

God's *true temple house* can only be occupied by those of *righteousness*. Just as *the earthly temple* had to be perfect in its works and deeds, so must the heavenly temple also be *Holy* and *perfect*. God will not dwell where sin exists (Isaiah 59:1-2). God's *house/temple* is on the top of a hill and there are questions about who shall *stand in The Holy Place* (Psalm 24:3-5). Only The High Priest could enter The Holy Place once a year on The Day of Atonement. The High Priest would offer a sacrifice for the sins of Israel. Their sins were pardoned for a year, but they *still did not receive mercy*. The *full Law*, with all its curses, still had to be kept. Why was this? It was because they had a *wrong heart*. (Read the book, *God's Plan Of Salvation*). Remember, *The Law is not for righteous Christians*, but it was made for *the unrighteous sinners*.

The Ark of The Covenant was *the mercy seat*, which held *The Ten Commandments*. To receive *mercy*, they had to keep *The Ten Commandments*, but it only pardoned their sins (with a sacrifice) for another year. It didn't make them *perpetually perfect* in their con-

science (mind or heart). Today, to receive *mercy for your sins*, you must keep God's *Ten Commandments in your heart* (you will not allow yourself to even *think* of breaking any of *The Commandments*) (Deuteronomy 5:29). Repentance, which creates a *change of mind and heart*, must take place so God can grant mercy and forgiveness for your *sins*. True to form, repentance is a state of having a pure heart. It is a heart so pure your *inner being* cannot and will not *think* of lying, stealing or breaking any of *The Laws of God*. God can, then, cause a Christian to ascend His *Holy hill* through Christ. That is why Jesus Christ could not have been a Priest on earth as long as The Priests of Levi offered gifts in *the temple* (which still existed) (Hebrews 8:4).

Once you begin to ascend God's *hill* – it is like going up Jacob's Ladder through Christ. Then you can enter God's *rest* at the time of The New Heaven and The New Earth (Genesis 28, John 1:51 and Psalm 24). God will be All In All and you will have *Salvation* through God's *righteousness*. Always remember, God changes His *requirements* when humans respond to His *call for righteousness*.

Servants And Heirs

The difference between *The Law* administered under Levi and Melchizedek is dependant upon *the desires of the individual*. It was a matter of *one's state of mind*. It's also a matter of how a person thinks – whether having human thoughts or attempting to have God's *thoughts*. If a person could not be trusted, then re-

strictions needed to be imposed by means of works and deeds. This includes penalties or death for violent behavior. Paul identified those living under The Levitical Priesthood as *servants*. If one is to be an heir, as long as he/she is a child (not mature), then he/she is no different than a servant (Galatians 4:1). Keeping *The Commandments* is a duty (a dogma). There is no choice. Those living under The Aaronic Priesthood have *no free choice* (living under *The Law*) (Luke 17:10). Paul declares that the heir, as a child, is under governors and tutors. They are *not free* to do what they may want to do.

They need to have *The Mind of Christ* in order to be made free. That is why *The Law* had to be kept perfectly without the slightest infringement. If anyone touched a dead animal, that person couldn't come into *the camp of Israel* until nightfall. This provided insight regarding *the value of life*. If a sacrificial animal was *blemished*, then it couldn't be offered. This was a remarkable reminder for the sinner to strive for *perfection*. *The Law of Moses, The Old Covenant*, was replete with *works* and *deeds* showing the people had a *wrong heart*. That is why Paul said *The Deed of a Law* was intended for *unrighteous people*. When and if people are *righteous*, then they need no Law (they never will need *The Law*).

All Laws needed to be imposed for all *the little infractions* of *The Law* – even when small sins were committed. Under The Levitical Priesthood, The Oral Laws were just as *binding* as The Letter of *The Law*. Jesus said, “*The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat*”

(Matthew 23:2). They had the same authority as Moses. Ironically, their *Oral Laws* were so severe, the people were not able to keep them. Christ revealed *The Law* had a much higher standard which wasn't manifested in *The Law of Moses* (such as, *mercy, judgment and faith*) (Matthew 23:23). Jesus revealed this *magnified* part of *The Law* which was to be kept, as well as the *trivial* parts of *The Law*. The *magnified Law* was more honorable because it *manifested* what *righteousness* actually was (Isaiah 42:21). It was God's *righteousness* being more *honorable* than *The Law of Moses*, which was only meant for *an unrighteous person*.

As long as one was under The Levitical Priesthood, that person was a servant, even though he/she was to become *an heir*. As long as you have not repented and are not willing to have your *mind changed*, then you are under *the bondage of your human nature* (Babylon). You would need *The Law*, with all of its works, to be accepted by God (Ephesians 4:13 and Isaiah 1).

Human nature is a mixture of *good and evil*. Humans are motivated by *survival* of the fittest. If your *life* is threatened, in any way, psychologically, physically or mentally, then you justify your actions with your need for *self-survival*. That is why God accepted animal sacrifices. It was to remind a human what their nature was really like.

God took no pleasure in animal sacrifices (Hebrews 10:8). God allows sacrifice as a lesson in life so a person can stop breaking *The Law*. It is the same with wars, except when humans are ready to commit world-

genocide. Then Christ must and will step in. A person who is growing *spiritually*, with *a new mind, a new heart* and new desires, will never need any *restrictions*. They become *teachable* and no longer need penalties to keep them from sinning. They become free to choose what is *right* (on their own, by *faith*).

The Law still exists, but *righteousness* is still *righteousness*. *Holiness* is still *Holiness*. *The Law* still reveals sin, but now, you are *free to choose* what you desire with your *new pure heart*. Christ's death removed the curses or penalty of *The Law*. You do not sin because you make a decision *not to sin*. You choose by *faith* to follow God. You live by *faith* just like Abraham and keep *The Law* of Righteousness because *you want to* and it isn't *in you* to *think of sinning*. Works or deeds of *The Law*, Holy Days or sacrifices are no longer needed to keep you from sinning. You now live *righteously by faith*. You are heirs and not servants any longer. With your *free choice*, you have decided to be a servant of Christ and to determine, on your own, not to sin. You no longer need *The Law* to tell you *right* from *wrong*. You now have *The Mind of Christ* which, in turn, is also The Mind of God. At that time, you become a Son of God (Romans 8:14-15). God's *power "In You"* never allows you to sin, because you made your choice *not to do so*. Then, in *The Resurrection*, you will be *perfect*.

CHAPTER 6

THE HOLY TITHE

Why did God command tithes be given to The Levitical Priesthood? Why did Jacob promise to tithe to God if He delivered him from adversity? Why do some Christian ministers believe they can take tithes from the people? Man's human nature (in error) decides for God what is *right* and *wrong*. *Tithing* is an important and Holy requirement – but *only for The Priesthood* which was without an inheritance. Tithing and The Priesthood are one and the same issue.

Origin Of Tithing

Why did God command tithing? What does it have to do with The Priesthood? *The Law on tithing* is very clear. God specifies for tithes to be given to The Priesthood of Levi. Mechizedek also received *tithes*. Furthermore, Jacob offered to give tithes to God. Obviously, The Priesthood has a legal right to accept tithes. You are about to prove why tithes are Holy and *sacred* and any other use of this *tithe* will mean you are *breaking God's Law*. To break one of God's Laws means a person, unknowingly, attempts to abort His *purpose and plan*. No one can ever decide for God how to use His tithe. Why did God allow the giving

of tithes to The Levites (in *The Law*)? Part of the answer lies within this text, “*And the Levite, (because he has no part nor inheritance with you) and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow, which are within your gates, shall come and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do*” (Deuteronomy 14:29). You have just read about *who can receive tithes*. God allowed *tithes* to be given, but for what reason? God, specifically in *The Law*, reveals how *tithes* are only to be *paid* to those who *do not receive an inheritance*. God can't make it any clearer.

God includes not only *The Priests* but also *strangers* (foreigners), *orphans* and *widows*. Why does God restrict the giving of tithes only to these groups? It is because The Levite has no *inheritance in the land*. Since Levites have *no land inheritance*, and with *no specified blessings from God*, they are allowed to receive *tithes*. How plain does God have to make it for you to understand, exactly, who can receive *tithes*? In *The Promised Land*, tithing is *a tax* obtained from the people who have been *blessed* by God. God makes you as *rich* and *prosperous* in proportion to how much you are willing to work and succeed.

The widow is included in this because she receives no inheritance since her husband is dead and his inheritance, probably, went to his sons. The firstborn son receives *twice* as much as the other sons and therefore becomes responsible for all the family's needs when the father dies (Deuteronomy 21:17). The stranger has no inheritance in *the land*, since they are *immigrants*

and have *no rights of inheritance*. Only God's *chosen people* have any *rights of inheritance to the land*. God blesses the *land* and, thereby, the landowners are also blessed by God. Tithing is from *the land* which God *blessed*.

God's Law is *Holy, just and good*. Do you believe it? The proceeds of tithing are to be *given*, only, to those who *do not have an inheritance*. Once one receives an inheritance, then one cannot take *tithes*. That is what God's Law *commands*.

Why Levites Receive Tithes

Why did God choose Moses, a Levite, to lead His *people*? Jacob was dying so he gave this prophecy about what would happen to his children (The Tribes of Simeon and Levi) in *The Last Days* (Genesis 49:5-7). Because Moses was hot-tempered and violent, God chose The Tribe of Levi to be *the servants* of His *people* (Genesis 49:5-17). Moses, while still living in Egypt, killed an Egyptian to protect an Israelite. He also became angry with Israel and smote the rock to provide water to a thirsty nation. Because Moses did this instead of trusting God, he was not permitted to enter God's inheritance – The Promised Land.

Miriam and Aaron (the sister and brother of Moses) tried to usurp the authority of Moses. By doing so, they were not allowed to enter The Promised Land or receive their inheritance. Why did God exclude The Tribe of Levi from *an inheritance*? Levi and Simeon's sister, Dinah, was raped by one of The Canaanites.

His name was Shechem and he wanted to marry her. Dinah's father Jacob agreed to the marriage, providing all the males were circumcised. The Canaanites agreed.

While they were healing from the circumcision, Levi and Simeon secretly entered the city and killed all the males. Because they dishonored their father's agreement and cruelly and very violently killed all the males, they lost their *inheritance in the land*. There seems to always be a penalty when *Commandments* are broken. That is why Jacob gave the stern prophecy against the cruelty Levi and Simeon performed (Genesis 34).

Abraham, Jacob And Melchizedek

Both Abraham and Jacob obeyed God by *faith* under The Priesthood of Melchizedek. Melchizedek served in A Priesthood of *Righteousness and Faith*. All obeyed *The Commandments* and Statutes or Covenants of God through their *faith*. *The Law* was not *codified* until four hundred and thirty years after Abraham. No Law was *in force* because no curses were required. These Godly commands were kept by *faith* and *not* by *law*. This is exactly what Peter said after Cornelius, The Gentile Centurion, was converted. God accepts anyone from any *nation* if they *fear Him* and *work righteousness* (Acts 10:35). This is without a *law*.

The Priesthood was changed from *Levi* to *Melchizedek* by *faith*. *The Old Covenant* commanded obedience by *law* – with *penalties* and *curses*. *The New Covenant* was by *faith*, where the convert *sought righteousness*

through his fear – but he still had *trust* in God. This *New Covenant* was maintained by their *free choice* to seek God and *His righteousness*. This included *The Magnified Law* under Christ, which made *The Law* a *spiritual matter*. This gave *The Law* more honor because this *Spiritual Law* had *mercy, judgment and faith* (Matthew 23:23). Now, Christians obey God and *His righteousness* because they *want to and not because they are ordered to and feel they must* (because of a curse).

Christian Giving

If *tithes* are based upon an inheritance, then can Christians give *ten percent to the needy*? Of course they can, but not by *a command* as stated in *The Law*. *The Law*, by *command*, allows you to give to *The Levites, the widows and strangers* who have *no inheritance*. Even *the tithing* to Melchizedek was by *faith* and was not a *command*. That is what Abraham and Jacob did. It was Abraham's *free choice decision* to give *tithes* to Melchizedek (God's High Priest). Why was this? It was because Abraham chose to acknowledge God, so he was blessed and was made *rich*. Abraham gave 10% to show his *faith* in God (Genesis 14:18-24). Abraham and Jacob wanted to give 10% because they *desired to do so* – and it was *not by any command*. Abraham took nothing for himself. He did not keep the 90% remaining left from the spoils.

Jacob also tithed because he had made a deal with God. Jacob felt God knew he would keep his promise after God answered his prayer. Jacob, on his own, made

the choice to tithe. This was based upon his being *blessed by God*, just like with Abraham (Genesis 28:18-22). Jacob did not *tithe* by *Law* but by *faith*. Jacob's *faith made him look to God*. While Levi was serving *in the temple*, Christ never could have been a *Priest on earth* (Hebrews 8:4). Jesus, as Melchizedek, is *A High Priest but only in heaven*. For Christians to be able to *tithe* by *faith*, they would be required to go to *heaven* to *tithe* to *Melchizedek*. The other possibility, since presently there is no physical *temple*, is that Christ would have to return as *High Priest* for Christians to *tithe* to Him. There is *no place* in scripture that has *Christian ministers* replacing *Levi* or *Melchizedek* as *Priests*. Although, Israel and Christians *will* become *Priests in the future* (Revelation 5:10). *Atonement* for a Christian who *sins* must be from Jesus in *heaven*, who *sits* next to God and is interceding for you because of all your short comings (Hebrews 8-10). Ministers are not *special priests*, but rather all Christians are to be a *chosen generation* – which is *A Royal Priesthood*, comprising a *Holy nation* (I Peter 2:9).

You are about to see how Christians (as Abraham) are to give *all they have* to God in *faith*. This is because they offered their *very lives* as a *living sacrifice* (Romans 12:1). When you forsake all, even your *life* for Christ, you can, then, approach Jesus, as your *High Priest*, to *atone for your sins*. No religion or faith, nor anyone else, can be your intercessor for *sin*. That is why Jesus gave the example of *the widow*, who had no inheritance, yet she gave *two mites* (all she had) (Mark 12:42-44). Jesus said “*don't pray for what you need as God knows what you need*” (paraphrased). Tithing

for Christians isn't commanded – only *faith* is required. Christians, as *A Royal Priesthood themselves*, gave all they had to the impoverished when there was a need (Matthew 19:21). Paul sets the example for the preaching ministry by saying, “*For yourselves know how you ought to follow us: for we [ministers] behaved not ourselves disorderly among you; Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labor and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you: Not because we have not power, but to make ourselves an example to you to follow us. For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat*” (II Thessalonians 3:7-10).

Ministers who preach and teach *The Gospel do* have a right to be helped, but they should also be *willing to work* and provide for themselves and their families. If *ministers* had a *right to take tithes*, then Paul would never have told the ministry *to work*. That would have broken *The Law*. Paul knew they weren't *Priests*, nor were any of them a *Levite* or of *Melchizedek*. There is *no scripture* that states *preaching* or *teaching ministers* are called *Priests*. Only The Mormon Faith, Catholic and Orthodox *believers* call their ministers by the title of “*A Priesthood Ministry*.” The Catholics and The Orthodox, also, claim they are of The Order of Melchizedek. The Mormons consider their males under 20 to be of The Levitical Priesthood. When they reach 20 years of age they are considered to be of The Order of Melchizedek.

Mormons, Catholics and Orthodox have places of

worship constructed like The Temple in Jerusalem. Therefore, they feel, *scripturally*, they can claim a *right to tithes*.

Biblically, only *Levites with a temple in Palestine* have that *right*.

- 1) You must be a Levite.
- 2) You must be a Levite serving in *a temple*.
- 3) The temple must be in Palestine.

Today, The Melchizedek Priesthood's *temple* is composed of every repentant *Christian's* body and *not some physical area or temple on earth*. Christians are not yet Priests. Each Christian is a *living sacrifice* with *only One Author or Priesthood* who is Jesus, The Christ (I Corinthians 3). Christ was that *High Priest only once* (Hebrews 5:10). Tithing is a *Holy, sacred Law* that is *only for those serving in God's temple who do not have an inheritance*. Abraham and Jacob clearly *tithed* to show how God made them to prosper, even though they still had not received the inheritance (Hebrews 11:8-10).

As a Christian, you have received *an earnest of your inheritance* when you received *God's Holy Spirit* (Ephesians 1:13-14). *The Holy Spirit* bestows God's *heavenly blessings*, which in the Greek language refers to *gifts from God* (Ephesians 1:3). (The gifts are listed in I Corinthians, Chapters 12, 13 and 14). *Preaching or teaching* ministers have *no right* (scripturally) to take

tithes from Christians. They can only receive help in preaching *The Gospel* when they are “*in need.*” The *laborer is worthy of his reward.* What reward is this? It is the minister who sets a *right example* by personally working for his needs. A minister should receive help in *eating* and *drinking* when doing God’s *work*, which includes their families (I Corinthians 9:4-8). If *tithing* was biblical to pay ministers, then why did Paul use the scripture, “*You shall not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treads out the corn*” (I Corinthians 9:9). The Priests in *the temple could eat* of the offerings, *so not once is tithing used.* There are no salaries, but only expenses are allowed for doing God’s *work.*

It is just like Paul, when he was in prison (in Rome) and asked for help. Paul referred to receiving *wages* like a Roman soldier. Roman soldiers received *no salaries*, but only their *daily rations* and a *part of the booty* in a *war.* In every case, *scripturally*, it refers to *daily rations* of only *eating* and *drinking.* Christ gave the *biblical answer*, “*the laborer is worthy of his hire*” (Luke 10:7). He, also, said to *go not from house to house for a minister’s needs.* Wherever you go to preach *The Gospel* and some people take you in, giving you a place to stay and eat their food – then *bless that house.* If no one does this, when you leave town, shake the dust (of that town) off your *feet.* When doing God’s *work*, they must not take a salary. But they can live off those people who *choose to help* with the mission. Then, the preacher would ask God’s *blessings* upon them. That’s it! There is no *tithe* collecting. Only God’s *appointed Priests* can take *tithes* (Summarizing Luke 10:4-8).

God's System Of Finance

God has explained His *entire system of finance* for The Church in I Timothy 5:1-21. Paul declares how to help an *elder in need* who preaches or teaches *The Gospel* (I Timothy 5:17). The rest of the elders only receive what some *in need* require. The biblical definition of an *elder* in *The Church* is given in I Timothy 5:1. *Elders* are *the older men*, and in Greek, the word “*presbyters*” means “*one over a household.*” “*Episkopos*” in Greek means “*the overseer over a household,*” which is usually *the firstborn*, when a grandfather and/or a father has died (I Timothy 5:8). Later, you will see when a Bishop or overseer refers to *the firstborn*, this is referring to *the firstborn son*, who is worthy of double honor (Deuteronomy 21:17).

Remember, Cain was a *firstborn* who was not worthy. *All elder men or elder women* should be treated as *Fathers and Mothers* or *sisters*. This is quite clear! Consequently, for any widows whose husbands have died, let them take care of the widow, as she helps care for her relative's house. Give honor to *widows* who are *destitute* and *alone*, who spend their time praying and doing *good works*. Then, Paul declares that any Heads, Bishops or those who are to oversee their *house* or *family* and don't *work* and/or provide for their own have *denied the faith*. They are considered to be *worse than an infidel* (an unbeliever) (I Timothy 5:8). There are *no tithes* for *the widows* here because there is *no Priesthood*. Paul addresses *the elders in the church* – those who are either *over households* or have *households*. But they *also* teach God's *word* and

preach *The Gospel*. Those who do *church work* and are God's *firstborn sons* are *worthy of double honor*. (Read exactly what *The Law* declares in Deuteronomy 21:17). Those elders oversee the needs of their families and do *God's work*. They receive double honor. They earn or make *money* from their private or secular *work*. Should their job not provide adequately, they can receive help for their *daily expenses* while preaching or teaching. But it is only a soldier's ration – which is food and shelter. It is only a meal and a bed if they travel and their job doesn't provide extra needs. A perfect God has considered everything! It is truly a shame to have ministers, on salaries, who *live better than most of their congregation*.

The *greatest servant* is the one who *serves the most*. Jesus clearly states concerning The Christians, whether it is an Apostle, Prophet, Prophetess, Elder or anyone who serves the most. That last category is The Greatest (Matthew 20:25-28). *Preaching ministers, teachers, family overseers, the one who gives the most secular, physical things and/or spiritual things* is considered to be *The Greatest by God*. "*Christian giving*" is based upon "*total sacrifice of the self*" and is *not The Law*. That is why Paul said, "*love [agapé love] is the fulfilling [completing] of the law*" (Romans 13:10). Jesus summarizes the whole message by giving *the golden rule*, which is to "*treat people as you want to be treated*" (Matthew 7:12) (paraphrased). That rule completes not only *The Law*, but what all *The Prophets said in the entire Bible*. *Tithes* are only "*for those in The Priesthood who do not have an inheritance from God.*"

CHAPTER 7

THE HEIRS

Once a Christian inherits God's Holy Spirit, he/she becomes a Son of God. As long as you are led by The Spirit of God, even though *still in the flesh* (human form), you are considered to be one of God's sons (Romans 8:14).

An Adoption

Paul spells out what a Christian is, "*For you have not received the spirit [human nature] of bondage [slavery] again to fear [self-survival]; but you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba [Daddy], Father*" (Romans 8:15).

The Israelites at Mount Horeb *feared* God. They obeyed Him, so they wouldn't be destroyed. They did not understand that God wanted them to have a *right heart* (Deuteronomy 5:29). He accepts *fear* as *obedience*, because when you have fear, it is *the beginning of knowledge and wisdom* (Proverbs 2 and 8). God has predestined you to be adopted from *human parents* by means of a *spiritual circumcision of your hearts* (Romans 2:29). You will become *Sons of God* and *inheritors of all of God's goodness and riches*. Just as *tithing is no longer an issue to be debated or necessary*, so likewise, *The Old Covenant is no longer relevant for*

Christians. You, now, have God's *Holy Spirit* which is writing *His Law* in your heart and mind (Romans 5:5 and Romans 8:26-30). You have come *to Christ* and do not need to do *the physical works*. Instead, the believer's *heart and mind* (their desire) wants only to do the same as Christ did.

Perfect Love

Of all the heavenly *gifts* which God gives to *Christians*, the ultimate gift He will grant is *agapé love* (I Corinthians 13:13). Any act a Christian performs – whether prophecy, mysteries, knowledge, faith, charity to the poor or even, martyrdom – yet, without having *agapé love* – it will profit them nothing (I Corinthians 13:1-3). Why not? It is because “*There is no fear* [cowardice] *in love* [agapé]; *but perfect love casts out fear: because fear has torment* [kolasis]. *He that fears is not made perfect in love*” (I John 4:18).

The word “*torment*” in Greek is “*kolasis*” – and its definition means “*overwhelming.*” This means “*one in torment is in constant fear or stress.*” Once you *love God enough to die* for Him (like Jesus), then you no longer obey God, *out of fear* – but rather it is because *you love Him* and would never ever want to disobey Him. You now obey God out of *love* because *you want to* and not because *you must* or because of some *written law*. *The Law* has been internalized (within your heart) on a *higher level*.

Thereby, *The Law is more honorable* (Isaiah 42:21). Then, God is *well-pleased* because of *His righteousness*

which is working “*In You.*” You will actually think like God and begin to share part of His *mind* (Philippians 2:5).

Christians Are Heirs

Through *the adoption* of God’s *Holy Spirit*, Paul declares, “*Wherefore you are no more a servant [slave] but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ*” (Galatians 4:7). Now, you are *free* from *slavery* and any *Law*. Why is this? It is because, now, *God’s Law* is written in your *heart*. You, along with every other *true* Christian, are the fulfillment of *The Law of God, The Torah* or “*path to life.*” You are truly *free*. You are *free* to choose. *You will always choose rightly* and God will be very pleased. You would never do harm to *anyone* or any part of God’s *creation*. You have complete *liberty* and *freedom* to make your *own choices*, since you are *no longer in the flesh*.

As Christ said, “*flesh is flesh and...Spirit is Spirit*” (John 3:6). You cannot be *both*! And, every Christian should strive to be like God and Christ. In the *flesh*, everyone dies. But in *the spirit*, you will *live* forever. Once you put your *flesh* to *death* and are granted *the spirit*, then you have *life*. (It is as though your conscience bothers you so much you could not and would not succumb to any fleshly desires). You are “*delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God*” (Romans 8:21). You are at *liberty* and *free* to receive *all* of *The Glory of God’s riches*. You are, truly, *the heirs* of all that God has created and will create.

Gifts Of The Spirit

God has predetermined that you should be Holy and *without blame* (Ephesians 1:3-4). This is what God had predestined for Christians from the very beginning. That is God's *mystery formula* otherwise known as *The Path to Salvation*. It is by means of these *spiritual gifts* which are given from heaven through God's *Holy Spirit*, that you will learn His entire unique *purpose* for you. When you come to God in *fear*, He takes *His Law* and enlarges it to *perfection*. Then, you will receive *mercy, wisdom, understanding, faith, judgment* and finally, *love*. When you are given this gift of love, then, all your *fears* will end.

The Law is then *magnified* and it gives *more honor or glory*. *The Law* is written in your *heart and mind*. You, now, are on *the strait and narrow path* to God's *gate*, which allows you to enter *His House of Rest* (Matthew 7). On that *path, sin* was in your *flesh*. But because *your flesh* literally died *in baptism*, then Christ's blood covers your *sins*, so now you can reach *The Kingdom of God*. Forgiveness of *sin* can only come by means of *The Priesthood of Melchizedek* (and not Levi).

Tree Of Life

In God's *house* (The Kingdom of God) you will find only *The Tree of Life* since there is no *Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil* (Revelation 22:1-3). Why not? It is because God's *house* has been placed upon the land in *New Jerusalem*. The *New Earth* is God's designated *place* for humanity, where only *spirits* or *im-*

mortals live (I Corinthians 15:50-55). Since there is no more *flesh*, then *sin* will have been *destroyed* by God. Death will be *gone*. *The Kingdom of God* (The New Earth) will be ruled from His *house* in New Jerusalem by The Family of God – which is *The Royal Family*. Christ's *Bride* will become the *mother of us all* (Galatians 4:26). Christ's *royal family* will *nurture* those on The New Earth with The Tree of Life. *The Kingdom of God* will have *His Sabbath Rest* for everyone on The New Earth. They will be drinking from the waters of the healing leaves taken from the river. This process continually cleanses those in this new world with its *healing leaves* (Revelation 22:2). The river is symbolic of God's Holy Spirit (John 7:38). The *free-choice* was theirs to make (Revelation 22:17).

Liberty Through Christ

Paul declares, “*Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage [slavery]*” (Galatians 5:1). The bondage was *The Old Covenant*, which demanded *The Keeping of The Law* by circumcision and all the legal demands (including the little tedious laws). Once *the curse* was removed from *The Law*, that *covenant* had no *power* whatsoever. Now, you are *justified by faith* and free from any *Law* with all its demands. Without *a curse*, you will have *liberty* by being *an heir* with Christ. This is when *The Hope of Righteousness* comes by *faith*.

Your faith – *In Christ* – leads you to all of God's *heavenly gifts*. This, in turn, imbeds His *Law* into your

heart and mind. No longer will you need a written law with all of its legal physical demands to keep you righteous or on the right path to righteousness. This can only be considered as The Righteousness of The Law (Deuteronomy 6:25). God's righteousness changes your basic nature so you can acquire His mind and heart. Only The Priesthood of Melchizedek keeps you sinless and on the spiritual path toward The Kingdom of God. That is why Christ explained how you shall see God's angels, as they ascend and descend upon The Son of Man – and they are helping as Christians ascend the ladder to be given the ultimate gift which is love (not man's love but God's love) (John 1:51). No longer will it be Jacob's ladder through Israel. Rather, you will ascend to God's house through Christ and His ladder. At this point, The Priesthood of Levi is now changed into The Priesthood of Melchizedek – which will give you righteousness by God's Holy Spirit. The Priesthood changed and therefore it changed The Administration of The Law.

CHAPTER 8

THE MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD

As long as sin existed, The Priesthood had to exist so it could atone for the people's sins. Remember, sin is missing the mark of perfection for righteousness. A transgression concerns *The Law*. A Law is only required when people are *not righteous*. If they are not righteous in their hearts, it means they are *not righteous* in their everyday deeds. The Levitical Priesthood does not make anyone perfect or righteous. Their strict adherence to *The Law* was demanded in *The Torah*. *The Law* never changed people. *The Law* merely told them what sin was. A Priesthood of *works* and *deeds* would keep reminding them of all the wrong things they continued to do. Therefore, A Priesthood was required. The Melchizedek Priesthood differs in that it can lead you to perfection and righteousness.

Christ, The Firstborn

Christ is of *The Order of Melchizedek* forever and He will restore *peace* by bringing *order* to Zion (Psalm 110:4). This was King David's commission to The Nation of Israel. Jesus, The Christ, was anointed as The High Priest in The Order of Melchizedek. This

occurred after the sacrifice of His *life* for everyone's sins. He, now, sits on the right hand of God's *throne*. He will *be there until all enemies are defeated, including death*. Then, He fulfills King David's commission of bringing peace on earth with His *return*. Jesus is God's First Begotten Son and, therefore, responsible for God's human family (John 1).

Being God's *firstborn*, Jesus received The Holy Spirit (without measure) so He could complete the job He was given (Deuteronomy 21:17). Jesus, in His human existence, proved Himself worthy by giving His life for everyone (Revelation 5). He now sits as your High Priest after The Order of Melchizedek and atones for mankind's sins (Acts 2:30-35). Jesus is The Final Melchizedek to atone for your sins. He will do this until death no longer exists with the destruction of sin. (I Corinthians 15:53-56). Jesus truly is The Author of Your Salvation (Hebrews 12:2). Christ is The Overseer of *your life* – so He can lead you to enter God's *house*.

Prerequisites

Christ, as Melchizedek, is superior to the angels. Jesus *loved righteousness* and, as a human, He had *faith* (Hebrews 1). The remainder of Hebrews discloses *the superiority of The Melchizedek Priesthood over The Levitical Priesthood*. This is because only The Melchizedek Priesthood has the power to make you *perfect* (Hebrews 7). When going back to the time of Abraham, The Melchizedek Priesthood revealed how Abraham was *faithful* and obeyed God's *voice* (Gen-

esis 26:5). So, Abraham was *blessed* by Melchizedek. Abraham became *rich*, both *spiritually* and *physically*. Abraham *tithed* to show *his faith* in trusting God to make him rich. This was long before he could receive an inheritance. Jacob did the same. The Aaronic Priesthood, under The Tribe of Levi, could never make The Israelites *perfect* or *righteous* because of *Israel's wrong heart*.

All *the works* and *deeds* could accomplish was to remind them of *the shadows* of *true righteousness*. Israel's righteousness could only occur through *The Law* by *The Old Covenant* (Deuteronomy 6:25). Therefore, *Salvation* could not come by means of *The Law* or *The Levitical Priesthood*. Melchizedek, who *loved righteousness* and *faith*, can and will make you *perfect*. It is not a *righteousness* derived from any *Law*, but rather it is a change of *nature* and *heart* by means of God *writing His Law* in your *heart* and *mind*.

In fact, this change of your *nature* and *conscience* actually *magnifies God's Law* and makes it more *honorable*. Since the time of the conversion of Cornelius (a Gentile), God considers everyone to be clean, as long as they fear Him and work towards righteousness (Acts 10:34-35). Becoming perfect is a process. This process is a spiritual journey. It only transpires through the heavenly blessings obtained from God which will make you Holy and blameless (in love) (John 4 and Ephesians 1:1-4). There are 7 Spiritual Steps in the ascent to The Kingdom of God – which is His *house of rest and peace*. How can these 7 Steps make you perfect?

A Matter Of Mind

Jesus presented *the parable of the sower and the seed* (Matthew 13). Christ explains how God sowed *wheat*. But then, Satan came along and sowed weeds among the wheat. What, exactly, are the *weeds* which Satan sowed and what do the weeds do? The *weeds* are not derived from *Satan*. Rather, he only does *the sowing* – or allows them to seduce Christians who are weak. Jesus tells you why some seeds do not flourish and what the weeds do:

- 1) Some seeds fall on stony ground without any nutrition and therefore, they dry up.
- 2) Some seeds fall among thorns, so do not have any nutrition. They are choked out and then they die.
- 3) Some seeds are eaten by fowls.
- 4) Some seeds fall on good ground and produce fruit.

The First Group occurs when a person hears God's *word* and rejoices. But this person still has one foot in this life and, in time, he forgets *the word*. So, his/her dedication *doesn't last long* and soon dries up (Matthew 13:20-21). The Second Group refers to a person who hears *the word* but is persecuted by others who do not believe. The person may be humiliated by family or friends and therefore goes back to living *their own human life* – so that *the word* which they heard is

choked (Matthew 13:22). The Third Group consists of individuals who hear *God's word* and at first, it may not make any sense. Satan distracts them. Their interest turns back to what he/she had been doing originally (Matthew 13:19). Their personal desires can be an idol, like fame, power or money. Or, it could be as mundane as just being too lazy. They prefer to just be a couch potato. They decide to choose their own desire over God's intended purpose for them. The Fourth Group consists of seeds which fall into the good soil and produce fruit. What you must not forget is how Jesus warns that only Christians who have repented (literally are having a change of mind) can understand *God's word*. The rest of the population will not discern *what it's all about!* The *seed* God plants is *His word* or *truth* (John 17:17). The seed will take hold but only *for* those who decide to want, in earnest, to know *God's word*. Why is this?

It is because of your own *personal desires*. You want to understand what life is all about and the true meaning of anticipated events after death. Then, *God's word* will make so much sense to you. It is through your *personal desire* which determines what is so important in your life (Proverbs 18:1-4). You may not want to have *wisdom*. That is the entire point of *the parable of the sower and the seed*. What is *really important* in your life? If you seek *wisdom*, then you will be like a spring of water, which is clear as crystal and running downstream, getting cleaner and clearer. *To get to be wise, there are seven pillars* of support which are: *love* (Romans 13:10), *understanding, fear* (Proverbs 9:10), *wisdom* (Psalm 51:6), *mercy, faith* and *judgment* (Matthew

23:23) (Proverbs 9:1). That is why Paul said, “*Love fulfills The Law.*” If you love *righteousness*, then follow The Melchizedek Priesthood to *perfection* by using The 7 Steps to *The House of God*. This will allow you to succeed. Clearly, it is how you *think* which becomes *the cardinal point*. You must have a love for God and His *creation* – which is *The Great Commandment*. As a child, you may have memorized *The Ten Commandments*. As a result, you learned, early on, how the first four commandments are designed to honor God. God gave *The Great Commandment* to Israel. But how could they obey when they had *wrong desires* or a *hard heart* (Deuteronomy 6:5)?

When you *repent* and seek *God's desires* and not your own, then you can understand *God's word*. That is why some individuals are *blinded* by *The Law* (under The Levitical Priesthood) (II Corinthians 3:13-14). It is Satan who keeps them *blinded* with *The Old Covenant* (II Corinthians 4:4). Some Christians, today, are in the same condition. They are blinded by Satan in the understanding of *The Old and New Covenant*. *The Letter of The Law* (doing human works) cannot make you *perfect*. The Levitical Priesthood never offered *Salvation*. Only *The Priesthood of Melchizedek*, which changes *The Law* from *physical* to *spiritual*, can make you *perfect* (Hebrews 7). How is this? It comes by climbing *The 7 Spiritual Steps* or *the ladder*. This way you will, finally, take the steps to achieve *a new mind*.

God's Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God can bestow many spiritual benefits.

But always remember, they are gifts and you did nothing to deserve them. The greatest gift you can receive is *agapé love* (Romans 5:5). The receiving of this gift will lead you to *the truth* (John 17:17). When you believe something is *good* for everyone else, rather than yourself, then you tend to have *generosity, kindness, wisdom and understanding*. This increases your *faith* by giving you *judgment*. This finalizes all of God's *purpose*, which is *love*. This truth brings you to *true agapé love* for *God and His creation*. You are finally coming to see and know God as He really is. How is this? The answer is: "*For God has not given us the spirit of fear [cowardice]; but of power and of love and of a sound mind*" (II Timothy 1:7).

Now, to most individuals, this level of *love* can be incomprehensible. The problem is they do not understand you have God and His Son (The Holy Spirit) along with all The Angels to help you grow in this *Godly love*. When you no longer have a private *agenda*, then you see *truth* or *facts* as they really are. God has finally brought you to the place where you are becoming *one* with God and Christ. Because Israel was not in agreement with Him, God said, "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*" (Amos 3:3). Humans can only walk together when they see *things the same way*. They must *think alike*.

The Prophet states that you must *seek God while He can still be found* (Isaiah 55:6-11). How is this? It comes in time when you receive some of *His thoughts* and *His mind!* Humans, on their own, cannot think like God. Why not? As long as you think of *yourself*

first, you cannot *think like God!* Paul said, “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 2:5).

God's *Holy Spirit* is what leads you to *The Mind of Christ*, which is *The Mind of God*. You must first begin to crawl and then, you *walk* (or perhaps run) *towards The Kingdom of God*. Then you will *live in God's house in God's Sabbath Rest*. Your Father has fine-tuned His *plan* and thought of everything *perfectly!* Christ and The Melchizedek Priesthood is *the only priestly order* which can make you *perfect with The Mind of God*. Christ's Priesthood, “*Has made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth*” (Revelation 5:10). This is *Christ's Bride* who is becoming *worthy* to be His *wife* (Revelation 19:7-8). Then, *The King of Kings* and *His royal wife* will reign with *Him*. God will invite *the whole world* to *The Wedding Feast*. That is the difference between *The Old Covenant* and *The New Covenant*.

CHAPTER 9

LETTER AND SPIRIT

“Precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little and there a little” (Isaiah 28:13). God’s word is purposefully written like a puzzle. Only those who want (on their own) to follow God’s ways will be able to understand. They are the only ones who can begin to put the pieces of the puzzle together. Why is this? Doesn’t God want everyone to know the truth and how He thinks? (Read the book, *God’s Puzzle Solved*).

You will learn how God has a specific time-frame for each of you. That time is when you want, above all else, to do what God expects of you as a Christian. *The Great Commandment* given to Israel is “*The Shema*.” It is “*the goal*” (Deuteronomy 6:5). When you love God with all your heart and mind, you will also love His *creation* and His *great purpose*. Anything less is *sin* or *missing the goal*. Then, when missing the mark or the goal, you cannot reach the level to which you must attain. God’s *purpose* is to be *All In All* (I Corinthians 15:28).

A Guarantee

God’s *great thoughts* will guarantee a *Kingdom of*

Peace, Prosperity and Joy, lasting forever and subject to everyone being in complete agreement. In *agreement*, you can walk together (Amos 3:3). Amazingly, God has a *mystery* or a *puzzle* for you to solve (Ephesians 1:9). That *mystery* is to be revealed to *the saints* and *the faithful* (Ephesians 1:1). God reveals how you can solve the puzzle of His *mystery* through The Priesthood of Melchizedek (through Jesus) (Colossians 1:26-27). Amazingly, God keeps His *plan a mystery to purposely blind the world*.

Only those who are *ready to be called* and truly desire to know the truth are able to understand *the truth* (Matthew 13:14-17). Why is this? It is simply because, if you don't understand God's *word* then you are not held responsible for your sins of *missing the mark* (John 9:41). You may understand *The Law* and still not transgress *The Law* (which is sin). Yet, you may not understand God's *mystery*, which is still *sin*. Some Christians, Israelites and Muslims know and keep *The Law*, but they still *miss the mark of perfection* which is *righteousness*. That is why the definition of *righteousness* is, "*All unrighteousness is sin* [never hitting the mark]" (I John 5:17).

Perfection is required and it is not by *The Keeping of The Law of Moses*. That is why *The Law* is designed to bring you to Christ – but it will not make you *perfect* (Hebrews 7 and I John 3:4). Only Melchizedek can give you *Salvation*, as a gift. *The Mystery of God* manifests God's *great love*. By being a *mystery*, those who sin just do not know or understand, so they are *not regarded as guilty*. "*There is a sin not unto death* [Lake

of Fire]” (I John 5:17). What is *the sin unto death*? It is missing *the mark of perfection*.

You can only be held responsible if you know what you have done in the past or what you are doing now may be wrong. Only those who know the *truth* and continue to *sin* are considered to be *responsible* for their sins. You can only know the truth through *God’s Holy Spirit*. If you have ever rejected, refused or turned against God’s *Holy Spirit*, then you have *committed a sin unto death* (Matthew 12:31-32). That is why those Christians who *refuse to keep growing spiritually* will be *held more responsible* than those individuals who God calls *the ignorant* or *the foolish*. These are the ones who never considered or wanted to know The Truth of God. (Read Luke 12:42-49 for a clearer understanding). It clearly covers the spectrum of mankind either responding to God’s *Holy Spirit* or rejecting it. Only those who, *knowingly*, reject God’s *great love* (His Holy Spirit) will be found guilty. *Knowingly*, they *miss the mark*.

Letter Of The Law

The Book of Isaiah explains how Israel comprises The Congregation of God. Israel believed in doing The Works of *The Law*. They accepted *The Old Covenant of The Law* with all its legal demands. However, you must realize what God thinks about all this. Understand that *The Letter of The Law* was intended to bring Israel to The Spirit of *The Law*. Instead, The Letter actually blinded Israel (Hebrews 9:8-9 and II Corinthians 3:13-14). They never seemed to look for The Messiah.

They, instead, only concentrated on the *physical works of The Law*. Read and compare how some Christians are just as blind today, “*To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to me? Says the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks or of lambs or of he goats. When you come to appear before me, who has required this at your hand, to tread my courts? Bring no more vain oblations [offerings]; incense is an abomination to me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with [stop doing the works of The Law]; it is iniquity [sin], even the solemn meeting. Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates: they are a trouble to me; I am weary to bear them*” (Isaiah 1:11-14).

Israel kept *the works and deeds of The Letter of The Law*, but it did not bring them to repentance. It also did not allow them to have *a change of their minds*. The Letter of *The Law* was intended to bring them to Christ, but it didn't accomplish this purpose (Galatians 3:24). Israel seemed to think all *the legalism of The Law* pleased God (when it did not). The Letter of *The Law* is designed for *criminals*. Israel didn't understand how *The Law* was only *a shadow or type of Christ*. The Letter of *The Law* could not and did not change them. They were still *criminals*. The giving of *sacrifices and death for capital crimes* would need to continue, *forever*. The Letter of *The Law* could never change them or make them *perfect*. It couldn't make them able to enter *The Sabbath Rest of God*. All *The Old Covenant* could do was to tell them what *sin* was, so they could stop sinning. They did not know *The*

Law was spiritual and it was not the doing of the physical works of The Law (Romans 7:14). That is why God said, “*When you make prayers, I will not hear*” (Isaiah 1:15).

The Levitical Priesthood was instituted to remind Israel of their sins. But it could never change their hearts. God summarizes the difference between The Letter of *The Law* and The Spirit of *The Law* by referring to *fasting* on The Day of Atonement. They fasted because of their sins on The Day of Atonement, but *it taught them absolutely nothing*. Keeping The Day of Atonement didn't *give them any new knowledge* so they could change their hearts (Isaiah 58:3). Israel still kept fighting in *strife* and continued to do *wickedness* (Isaiah 58:4). Then, God declares the spiritual meaning of The Day of Atonement “*Live in peace and help everyone in need*” (paraphrased). Give food and clothing to the poor and take care of your own family (Isaiah 58:6-10). Isaiah was revealing The Spirit of *The Law*. But they were oblivious to the real meaning.

Christ said, “*the weightier matters of the law [are] judgment, mercy and faith*” (Matthew 23:23). These are of greater consequence to God than doing *The Works of The Letter of The Law*. The Letter of *The Law* only keeps people from committing *crimes* because they do not want to pay the penalty of *The Law*. The Letter reveals *sin* and its consequences, but it doesn't change anyone's *heart* or *mind*. The *magnification* of *The Law* clarifies *what is not seen by The Letter of The Law*. The magnification is in The Spirit of your mind (Isaiah 42:21). Are you beginning to understand *the purpose*

of *The Law*, which affects your conscience? When God grants you *spiritual gifts*, such as mercy, wisdom, understanding, faith, judgment and love, you begin to internalize *the truth*. Once you live by The Spirit of *The Law*, there is no need for The Letter of *The Law*, with all of its dos and don'ts. It only defines *sin* as a *transgression of a Law*. The Spirit of *The Law* gives *The Law* honor, because you understand its *purpose*. It gives you *wisdom* to make *loving judgments* – which will increase your *faith* in God. This is manifested by *the fruits*. That is why Jesus said it is “*by their fruits you shall know them*” (Matthew 7:20). What fruits *prove* you possess The Spirit of *The Law*? When do you know you have *completed the spiritual keeping of The Law*? This is how you do it: “*Love is the fulfilling [completes] of the law [making it honorable]*” (Romans 13:10).

Jesus said, “*By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another*” (John 13:35). *The Law of Righteousness* is a *spiritual matter* which gives *honor* to *The Law* and it makes perfect *sense*. It is *the wise* thing to do. Its fruit produces peace, prosperity, joy and all the other fruits of The Spirit. In addition, you receive *The Gift of Salvation*. It's so simple, a child can understand. Know, for a surety, only The Melchizedek Priesthood can give you *Salvation*. Through *faith* and the deep desire for God's *righteousness*, you can be granted *heavenly blessings*. This will make you into *a new creature*. After Adam and Eve sinned and missed the mark by not eating of The Tree of Life, it became necessary for a *second Adam* to restore The Tree of Life. The Order of

Melchizedek began from Abel and continued until *the time* when Christ *came* to earth. It was that particular *body* which God *prepared* for The High Priest's sacrifice. It was for you and all of God's children. *The Old Covenant* is no more. There are no more animal sacrifices. There are no more *dos and don'ts* (works) of *The Law*. Christ is your sacrifice. You are now *free* to do *good works* by helping the poor, the sick, the weak, prisoners, the orphans, the widows, the strangers, the homeless, other Christians and any needy members of your family.

All A Gift

You cannot think that by doing works you deserve Salvation. Jesus was God's *First Begotten Son* by the *gift* of His *Holy Spirit*. Jesus was filled with God's *Holy Spirit* (Mary's miraculous birth of Christ) (John 3). Christ, from birth, was *blessed* by God to become *worthy to be your sacrifice*. Once sin is defeated, you are *granted mercy* by *The Holy Spirit of God*. You will begin to climb The Ladder of Salvation to God's *house*. Christ was The Firstborn *human* to receive *life*, as proof of God's *plan*. Jesus was resurrected by His Father from *death* and sits at God's *right hand*. Through Christ, as *The Author of Your Salvation* by The Order of Melchizedek, you shall reign with Him as Priests and Kings. God's *love* never ceases. His *truth* about *The Kingdom of God* should be your primary goal. You can enter The Kingdom of God (God's House of Rest) forever. Are you planning for your life to follow God's *path* so you can receive The Gift of Salvation? You can receive *the greatest gift* anyone has ever received

– which is ***THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE FOREVER IN GOD'S REST – PARADISE*** (Hebrews 4:9). That will be your ultimate gift. You will love every minute of it (no clocks will be necessary). Time continues forever. It's time to turn your thoughts to God and start following His directions. This means you will be on the most *sought-after list* of all. There are royal blue-bloods who would die to be on this list. Strive to have your name written in the book to receive the ultimate prize – The Gift of Eternal Life.