

# Genesis 15:1-6 - Lesson 25

## Abram Counted Righteous

### 1. Genesis 14 - Abram's Tithe

- a. Law tithing from Mal 3:9-10 put people in the church under a curse
- b. The law had not been given in Gen 14, the people in Hebrews still have a law
- c. Christ has become a curse for us (Gal 3:13), and we are not under the law -Rom 6:14
- d. Does Abram's tithe justify the church tithing to the local pastor? No, of course not.
- e. Abram tithed, because of Melchizedek's priesthood; there are no priests today!
- f. The church is instructed to be generous, not of necessity - 2 Cor 9:7

### 2. 15:1-4 - Abram's Great Reward

- a. Gen 15 is 2x God makes a promise to Abram who asks for surety and God gives it
- b. Instead of the small reward offered by Sodom, Abram's portion is the LORD
- c. God is making these promises to a man who has done nothing to earn it
- d. Not every steward of Abram fulfills the promise - the heir will be of his flesh

### 3. 15:5-6 - Righteousness by Faith Alone

- a. Before it was the dust of the earth, now it is the stars in the sky (heaven)
- b. It is important to understand the faith-works controversy - James 2:24, Rom 4:5, 5:1
- c. Faith that requires works is dead without works - James 2:14, 17-24
  - i. James is used as a correction for Paul, but actually James' faith is different.
- d. Abram learned the reward is of grace through faith - Rom 4:1-5
- e. Abram was counted righteous without works, law, circumcision - Rom 4:9-13
- f. Abram is the father of all by faith, but when things happened is important.
- g. Gen 15:6 is quoted for this specific reason by Paul not Gen 12, 17, 22 - Gal 3:6-8

## Why Abram's Tithe is Not a Pattern for the Church

1. **Abraham tithed in response to a unique blessing by Melchizedek.** Gen 14:18-19 states that the king brought bread and wine and blessed Abram. You did not receive the blessing from Melchizedek, nor were your "enemies delivered into thy hand."
2. **Abram tithed only of all the spoils** (Heb 7:4). Abram did not tithe of his income.
3. **It was a one time tithe.** Abram never paid another tithe to Melchizedek.
4. **There is no command to follow Abram's pattern.**
5. **Melchizedek's tithe was not a Jewish law tithe.** It is not subject to the same tithing laws.
6. **Melchizedek was a king and priest.** There are no kings and priests in the body of Christ.
7. **Christ is the priest of Israel not of a carnal commandment.** Christ's priesthood was like Melchizedek in that it is without end, and not by the carnal commandment. His similitude was not to collect tithes of carnal things (Heb 7:16).
8. **Your pastor is not the High Priest.** Jesus Christ alone claims this high priestly office.
9. **The tithe from Abram proved a greater priesthood than the Levitical.** So then, why would pastors claim to be spiritualized priests like the Levites over Israel?
10. **The law was insufficient.** This includes the continual required law tithe which was only needed because the priests' work was never done. The Melchizedek priesthood proves that the law with its Levitical priesthood and other requirements was insufficient. It could not make perfect (Heb 7:12).
11. **Christ's priestly tabernacle is not earthly and built with hands** (Heb 9:11). It may be a sure guarantee that the pastors who teach tithing are doing so to pay for an earthly hand-built building.
12. **Christ's priestly function was performed for the *Hebrews*** The book about Christ's priesthood is addressed to the remnant Hebrews who were participants in the new covenant. We are not Hebrews under the covenants.
13. **Christ is not collecting tithes.** His one-time priestly work for the Hebrews is finished (Heb 7:27, Heb 9:28). Those who pretend to collect for him are doing so without authority.
14. **The new covenant was for Israel and Judah** (Heb 8:10). It replaced the old to the same people. Gentiles were and are strangers from Israel's covenants of promise.
15. **Our Head is Christ, our pattern is Paul...** and Paul did not tithe to a local church – 2 Cor 12:15
16. **You are the body of Christ.** Our complete position in Christ precludes us from an obligated tithe to another member of the body. We are all members of each other. Not one of us is above another.

In no way does Abram tithing to Melchizedek place us under the modern day invention of required tithing.