

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade

Pastor David Evangelista ~ January 11, 2009

"A Pattern for Conduct" Text: Genesis 14:18-20

Genesis 14:18-20 "Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God most high, and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God most high, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything."

After Abram's battle with king Chedorlaomer (See Genesis 14), he received blessing from Melchizedek (who was a type of Christ). Then Abram gave this High Priest and King, a tenth of all he had. This, by the way, was before the Dispensation of Law and before Moses.

Before Abram, there was neither Jew nor Gentile. Abram was the first Hebrew. There were no Israelites until Jacob (Abram's grandson) had a name change (by God) to Israel. There were no Jews until the division of the land of Israel (the northern kingdom) from Judah, (the southern kingdom)! What was the result of Abram's tithe to Melchizedek? He was a prosperous man (See Genesis 24:34-35). Note: We are all sons of Abraham by faith (Galatians 3:7)! God, still impressed by the life of Abraham, confirms His covenant with Jacob (See Genesis 28: 13-15). In appreciation, Jacob promises a tenth to God! Result? He too became a wealthy man. Note: If we honor God, He will honor us!

Tithing was approved by Moses also. The name of Moses will always be respected by both Jew and Gentile. He is known as: "The deliverer of Israel—a great leader—the Law giver—a prophet of God—the great emancipator and the Scribe of the Pentateuch" (the first 5 books of the Bible). Moses received the command concerning the tithe of the land's production. (See Leviticus 27:30). Tithes belong to the Lord

as the real owner of the land. Tithes are as rent paid by God's people as His tenants. Moses received the command concerning the tithe of the cattle. (See *Leviticus 27:32*). Every tenth animal as it came was to be given to the Lord. Tithing was also approved by good King Hezekiah of Judah, who was a righteous king. It was he who revived tithing in Judah and Israel (See *2 Chronicles 31:5 and 32:27-29*). Tithing was also approved by the Lord Jesus (See *Luke 11:42*). Jesus did not condemn tithing—He believed in it. He was emphasizing the importance of fidelity in all things! He taught it was more blessed to give than to receive (*Acts 20:35*). This is true concerning: Service—a joy to help others, love—the essence of Christ's work on the cross and money, when given in the right spirit! Jesus emphasized giving in secret (*Matthew 6: 3-4*).

Paul believed everyone should give as the Lord had prospered (*1 Corinthians 16:2*) so tithing is implied). He also believed we should give bountifully and without grudging (*2 Corinthians 9:6-7*). We Christians have good reason to give in light of the cross of Christ!

I believe tithing Christians (and those who give above the tithe), will be rewarded! We are promised a blessing (Malachi 3:10, Galatians 6:9 and Luke 12:33).

Application: Eternal riches are of more value than temporal possessions! "*Lay up for yourselves riches in heaven!*" Recognize that we are *stewards* of what God has provided for us; He really owns all we have and has entrusted the stewardship thereof, to us.

