



BECHUKOTAI - IN MY DECREES

Leviticus 26:3 to 27:34
Jeremiah 16:19 to 17:14
Matthew 23:1 to 24:2
John 14:15-21; 15:10-12

We find in the study of *Bechukotai*, the last portion of the book of Leviticus, Yahweh's closing remarks regarding His instructions for the holy lifestyle of the priests (those who serve in the Tabernacle) and for those desiring to walk in the royal lifestyle of His Kingdom. These instructions were not limited to the twelve tribes of Israel. They also included those who desired to serve the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and sojourning with the Israelites. They too are noted as a native born, no longer a stranger or Gentile, but counted in the full inheritance along with Israel. Therefore, they too are part of the whole commonwealth of Israel, called *Israel*.

During that first year, while the Israelites camped at Mount Sinai, the legal, moral code of the marriage covenant was imparted in what is known as the Book of Leviticus. These Levitical studies were presented during a one-month period between the assembly of the Tabernacle (as recorded at the end of the book of Exodus) and the commencing of the census at the beginning of the book of Numbers. During that month, Yahweh very carefully laid before His people the protocol of His principles that describes how His Kingdom functioned using the Tabernacle, the duty and the role of the Levites, the duty of the Levitical priests, and the duty of the Levitical High Priest (the remnant/Bride). We see how important His teaching of the Tabernacle is today through Ezekiel, who spoke prophetically to the Messianic generation – *us*.

🦁 **Ezekiel 43:10-12** “Son of man, describe the temple to the house of Israel, that they may be ashamed of their iniquities; and let them measure the pattern. And if they are ashamed of all that they have done, make known to them the design of the temple and its arrangement, its exits and its entrances, its entire design and all its ordinances, all its forms and all its laws. Write *it* down in their sight, so that they may keep its whole design and all its ordinances, and perform them. This *is* the law of the temple. The whole area surrounding the mountaintop *is* most holy. Behold, *this is the law of the temple.*”

- 🌿 **Ecclesiastes 3:11** “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God/*Elohim* does from beginning to end.”
- 🌿 **Isaiah 46:9-10** “Remember the former things of old, for I am God/*Elohim*, and there is no other; I am God/*Elohim*, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done”
- 🌿 **Hebrews 4:6,14** “It still remains that some will enter that rest [*Sabbath – the Law of Liberty*], and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in because of their disobedience. Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus/*Yeshua* the Son of God/*Elohim*, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.”

The Principles That Govern The Land

The principles and protocol that govern the land also extend to those in *Yeshua* today. Those who choose to follow Yahweh’s pattern will be blessed physical, spiritual and emotional along with the promise of provisions and prosperity. However, in Leviticus 26:14-34, Yahweh reminds His people that if they stray from following His instructions, He gives them five declining levels of lifestyle and health to help them to see the error of their ways and that hopefully will assist in their desire to draw closer to Him. If believers do not turn back, these warnings then become consequences. If they allow lawlessness to rule and reign in their life, it is *they* who activate the consequences in their life. The purpose behind Yahweh’s principles is to produce redemption. If believers ignore His redemption, they will be a confused people scattered among the Nations. The land then will lay fallow to enjoy its Sabbath rest (2Chronicles 36:21).

Today, the consequences are closer to home than we think. In this present day, nations are coming against the Covenant of the God/*Elohim* of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jerusalem, the Bridal Chamber is threatening, and there is talk of a counterfeit king governing with a false bride. Yahweh is a jealous God/*Elohim*. He is calling His people back regardless of the policies other Nations are trying to impose on His people Israel and His land. Yahweh’s Covenant is true. He is faithful, but His people must be true to their vow in honoring Him in return.

- 🌿 **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11** “Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God/*Elohim*. “Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD’S/*Yahweh*’s hand Double for all her sin.” The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the LORD/*Yahweh*; make straight in the desert a highway for our God/*Elohim*. Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; the glory of the LORD/*Yahweh* shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together; for the mouth of the LORD/*Yahweh* has spoken.’ O Zion, You who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift *it* up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah,

‘Behold your God/*Elohim!*’ Behold, the Lord God/*Elohim* shall come with a strong *hand*, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward *is* with Him, and His work before Him. He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry *them* in His bosom, *and* gently lead those who are with young.”

Governing The Land - The Five Blessings

Leviticus 26:1-13

Yahweh gives His people instructions to bless them for their good. *“You shall not make idols for yourselves; neither a carved image nor a sacred pillar shall you rear up for yourselves; nor shall you set up an engraved stone in your land, to bow down to it; for I am the LORD / Yahweh your God/Elohim. You shall keep My Sabbaths and reverence My sanctuary: I am the LORD/Yahweh. If you walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and perform them, then,”*

- *“I will give you rain in its season, the land shall yield its produce, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. Your threshing shall last till the time of vintage, and the vintage shall last till the time of sowing; you shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely” (Leviticus 26:4-5)*
- *“I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none will make you afraid; I will rid the land of evil beasts, and the sword will not go through your land. You will chase your enemies, and they shall fall by the sword before you. Five of you shall chase a hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight; your enemies shall fall by the sword before you. For I will look on you favorably and make you fruitful, multiply you and confirm My covenant with you (Leviticus 26:6-9)*
- *“You shall eat the old harvest, and clear out the old because of the new” (Leviticus 26: 10)*
- *“I will set My tabernacle among you, and My soul shall not abhor you” (Leviticus 26: 11)*
- *“I will walk among you and be your God/Elohim, and you shall be My people” (Leviticus 26:12).*

“I am the LORD/Yahweh your God/Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should not be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and made you walk upright” (Leviticus 26:1-13).

Governing The Land - The Five Warnings

Leviticus 26:14-33

“But if you do not obey Me, and do not observe all these commandments, and if you despise My statutes, or if your soul abhors My judgments, so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break My covenant, I also will do this to you,

- *“I will even appoint terror over you, wasting disease and fever which shall consume the eyes and cause sorrow of heart. And you shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. I will set My face against you, and you shall be defeated by your enemies. Those who hate you shall reign over you, and you shall flee when no one pursues you” (Leviticus 26:14-17)*
- *“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins. I will break the pride of your power; I will make your heavens like iron and your earth like bronze and your strength shall be spent in vain; for your land shall not yield its produce, nor shall the trees of the land yield their fruit” (Leviticus 26: 18-20)*
- *“Then, if you walk contrary to Me, and are not willing to obey Me, I will bring on you seven times more plagues, according to your sins. I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, destroy your livestock, and make you few in number; and your highways shall be desolate” (Leviticus 26:21-22)*
- *“And if by these things you are not reformed by Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I will punish you yet seven times for your sins and I will bring a sword against you that will execute the vengeance of the covenant; when you are gathered together within your cities I will send pestilence among you; and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. When I have cut off your supply of bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall bring back your bread by weight, and you shall eat and not be satisfied” (Leviticus 26:23-26)*
- *“And after all this, if you do not obey Me, but walk contrary to Me, then I also will walk contrary to you in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins. You shall eat the flesh of your sons, and you shall eat the flesh of your daughters. I will destroy your high places, cut down your incense altars, and cast your carcasses on the lifeless forms of your idols; and My soul shall abhor you. I will lay your cities waste and bring your sanctuaries to desolation, and I will not smell the fragrance of your sweet aromas. I will bring the land to desolation, and your enemies who dwell in it shall be astonished at it. I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste” (Leviticus 26:27-33)*

“Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. As long as it lies desolate it shall rest - for the time it did not rest on your Sabbaths when you dwelt in it” (Leviticus 26:14-35).

Historically, the Children of Israel did not obey the message, and Israel fell as a nation. They were forced to leave the land and live in the exiled regions among the Nations. The prophet Daniel records how the House of Judah (the Jews) fulfilled their repentance, and we witness a remnant return to the land. But no record was made of the House of Israel (Ephraim) returning until now (Daniel 9).

“Ephraim’s punishment as outlined in Ezekiel 4:5 was for three hundred and ninety years. However, Leviticus 26:27-28 says that if there is no repentance, the punishment will be sevenfold. There was no record of Ephraim (the Northern Kingdom/House of Israel) repenting, so the punishment was for three hundred and ninety years multiplied by seven years, or two thousand and seven hundred and thirty years. The punishment has to have a starting point and an ending point. Surely, we cannot use a date later than 721 BC, which marked the fall of the City of Samaria, the last bastion of the Northern Kingdom. Two thousand and seven hundred and thirty years from that date brings us to the year 2008 at the end of the punishment. However, a better starting date could well be 734 BC that marked the year that Ephraim or the Northern Kingdom had lost all political and religious control of any territory it still held. It had become a vassal state of Assyria. Going forward two thousand and seven hundred and thirty years from 734 BC brings us to 1996, a year in which every feast of God/Elohim was marked with a blood red moon. It was also the year of the Hal-Bopp comet. Further, it marked the beginning of the one hundredth jubilee/yovel year from Noah and the fiftieth yovel from Yeshua. Also, it has been my experience that the vast majority of those coming to an understanding of the Messianic Age did so after 1996”
(Quote by A. Wootten).

There Is Hope

 **Jeremiah 31:1-9** “At the same time [*as the punishment of the wicked*],” says the LORD/Yahweh, “I will be the God/Elohim of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.” Thus says the LORD/Yahweh: “The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness - Israel, when I went to give him rest.” The LORD/Yahweh has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt, O virgin of Israel! You shall again be adorned with your tambourines, and shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice. You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food. For there shall be a day when the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim, ‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion, to the LORD/Yahweh our God/Elohim.’” For thus says the LORD/Yahweh: “Sing with gladness for Jacob, and shout among the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘O LORD/Yahweh, save Your people, the remnant of Israel!’ Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the ends of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and the one who labors with child, together; a great throng shall return there. They shall come with weeping, and with supplications I will lead them. I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters, in a straight way in which they shall not stumble; for I am a Father to Israel, and Ephraim is My firstborn.”

The Restoration

 **Leviticus 26:40-45** “But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that

they also have walked contrary to Me, and *that* I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt - then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land. The land also shall be left empty by them, and will enjoy its Sabbaths while it lies desolate without them; they will accept their guilt, because they despised My judgments and because their soul abhorred My statutes. Yet for all that, when they are in the land of their enemies, I will not cast them away, nor shall I abhor them, to utterly destroy them and break My covenant with them; for I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh* their God/*Elohim*. But for their sake I will remember the covenant of their ancestors, whom I brought out of the land of Egypt in the sight of the nations, that I might be their God/*Elohim*: I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh*”(2 Chronicles 7:13-14).

The two people groups of Israel today are scattered throughout the lands of their dispersion. Very few live in the Land by comparison, and of those, only a remnant follows God's/*Elohim* instructions. Without the knowledge of the Messiah's principles, His people will have no authority to stay in the land of their inheritance. *Yahweh's* laws that govern the land are permanently set in place and therefore govern the right of return. These warnings listed earlier applied to our ancestors and are still in effect today. Today, through the Messiah, who fulfilled the Word given at Mount Sinai, Yeshua, the son of David, we can choose life! *Yahweh* does not leave us without hope. The *Hope of all Israel* rests on His people walking out His redemptive plan in their lives.

The Valuation of Redemption Leviticus 27

Up to this point in the Book of Leviticus, the Torah/Instructions have described the offerings that can be brought in forms of animal and vegetable (grain). In this last chapter, it outlines the terms of redemption through the valuation of property, commerce, and human restoration.

🏰 **Ruth 4:7-11** “Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning redeeming and exchanging, to confirm anything: one man took off his sandal and gave it to the other, and this was a confirmation in Israel. Therefore the close relative said to Boaz, ‘Buy it for yourself.’ So he took off his sandal. And Boaz said to the elders and all the people, ‘You are witnesses this day that I have bought all that was Elimelech’s, and all that was Chilion’s and Mahlon’s, from the hand of Naomi. Moreover, Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, I have acquired as my wife, to perpetuate the name of the dead through his inheritance, that the name of the dead may not be cut off from among his brethren and from his position at the gate. You are witnesses this day.’ And all the people who were at the gate, and the elders, said, ‘We are witnesses. The LORD/*Yahweh* make the woman who is coming to your house like Rachel and Leah, the two who built the house of Israel; and may you prosper in Ephrathah and be famous in Bethlehem.’”

Yeshua, as our Kinsman Redeemer, is the fulfillment of our redemption payment throughout the generations. On the night He was betrayed, the High Priest determined what His Life was worth: *thirty pieces of silver*. This amount was given to the High Priest, who did not put it into the temple treasury. Yeshua at His trial *remained silent*. He freely paid our redemption price for *sin and death* according to Yahweh's will and governing principles (Matthew 26:15; 27:1-10; Jeremiah 32:6-9; Zechariah 11:12-13).

We also see through Messiah's payment the witness of the valuation of the right of inheritance and redemption for the people and the land in the book of Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 32:8-10,14-15,42-44 “Then Hanamel my uncle's son came to me [*Jeremiah*] in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD/*Yahweh*, and said to me, ‘Please buy my field that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin; for the right of inheritance is yours, and the redemption yours; buy it for yourself.’ Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD/*Yahweh*. So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money - seventeen shekels of silver. And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. ‘Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts, the God/*Elohim* of Israel: Take these deeds, both this purchase deed which is sealed and this deed which is open, and put them in an earthen vessel, that they may last many days.’ ‘For thus says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts, the God/*Elohim* of Israel: ‘Houses and fields and vineyards shall be possessed again in this land.’ ‘For thus says the LORD/*Yahweh*: *Just as I have brought all this great calamity on this people, so I will bring on them all the good that I have promised them. And fields will be bought in this land of which you say, ‘It is desolate, without man or beast; it has been given into the hand of the Chaldeans.’ ‘Men will buy fields for money, sign deeds and seal them, and take witnesses, in the land of Benjamin, in the places around Jerusalem, in the cities of Judah, in the cities of the mountains, in the cities of the lowland, and in the cities of the South; for I will cause their captives to return,’ says the LORD/*Yahweh*.”*

The Tithe

Leviticus 27:30-33 “And all the tithe of the land, *whether* of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, *is* the LORD'S/*Yahweh*'s. It is holy to the LORD / *Yahweh*. If a man wants at all to redeem *any* of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth to it. And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD/*Yahweh*. He shall not inquire whether it is good or bad, nor shall he exchange it; and if he exchanges it at all, then both it and the one exchanged for it shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.”

The teaching of the Tabernacle opened with the tithes and offerings to help build the Tabernacle. Now at the close of the Tabernacle teaching, Yahweh again brings our attention to the tithes as key to the completing of the Tabernacle instructions (Exodus 25:1-2).

Offerings and tithes are not synonymous. So many people blend the two. However, that is not how Yahweh's economy works. When we walk in His ways, Yahweh provides an increase whether it is from agriculture, commerce or from another endeavor. His provision or increase is allotted to His people in portions of tens. Every tenth part He then declares as *holy*.

🌿 **Leviticus 27:32** “And concerning the tithes of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be *holy* to the LORD/Yahweh.”

A *tithe* is one-tenth of the whole portion. It is this tenth that is rendered *holy* unto Yahweh. The tenth or tithe is also called the *memorial* or *firstfruits*.

🌿 **Proverbs 3:9-10** “Honor the LORD/Yahweh with your possessions, and with the *firstfruits* of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine.”

The teaching of the *memorial* is revealed in the Leviticus chapter 2 with the grain offering. The memorial or tenth represents Yeshua. He became our *memorial firstfruits*. Therefore, if we are in Yeshua, we too offer the *memorial/tenth/firstfruits* portion to Him. When we present our tenth/tithe to Him, we confirm our calling in His *firstfruits* (Luke 22:17-20).

🌿 **James 1:16-25** “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift [*bounty/increase*] is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own [*every tenth*] will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits [*tenth*] of His creatures. So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God/*Elohim*. Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word [*the tithe*], which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues *in it*, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.”

The expressions *memorial*, *tenth*, and *firstfruits* are the same. Walking in the tithe also activates Yeshua's priesthood on the earth. His priesthood is known as *the remnant* or *Bride or firstfruits*. Therefore, the presenting of the tithe or tenth is imperative in the *active* role of the believer. It is not an option for them. Therefore, if we do not give His holy portion with an open hand, but hold the *memorial/firstfruits* back, we render ourselves unclean and inactivate.

🌿 **James 1:22** “But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”

🌿 **Malachi 3:8-10** “Will a man rob God/*Elohim*? Yet you [*priests*] have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, *even* this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,’ says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you *such* blessing that *there will not be room enough to receive it [the ingathering of His remnant].*”

Once our increase or tenth is promised, we cannot say we give it and then keep it back. From *Yahweh*’s position, He knows *exactly* how many tenths are in His whole portion, as they are all counted and clearly seen by Him. Therefore, if we are dishonest to the way His economy works in heaven, and do not mirror His behavior on earth, it will not go well for us. We see in Acts 5:1-2 that Ananias and Sapphira withheld *Yahweh*’s *holy* portion. Their collaborated, deceptive, and dishonest ways did not prove well for them, as the Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh is the witness of truth between heaven and earth* (1John 5:6-8 KJV/NKJV only).

🌿 **Acts 5:1-11** “But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back *part* of the proceeds, his wife also being aware *of it*, and brought a certain part and laid *it* at the apostles’ feet. But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God/*Elohim*.” Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things. And the young men arose and wrapped him up, carried *him* out, and buried *him*. Now it was about three hours later when his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. And Peter answered her, ‘Tell me whether you sold the land for so much?’ She said, ‘Yes, for so much.’ Then Peter said to her, ‘How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband *are* at the door, and they will carry you out.’ Then immediately she fell down at his feet and breathed her last. And the young men came in and found her dead, and carrying *her* out, buried *her* by her husband. So great fear came upon all the church and upon all who heard these things.”

The memorial or tithe is always given first before any gifting or offerings to other endeavors. What we sow by faith in agreement with His principles will produce in its season according to *Yahweh*’s promise to us. His seed will never fail. It is guaranteed, as it is His Kingdom’s eternal policy.

Believers are to *bring the whole tithe*. Often we can be distracted by other needy causes, but the tithe is not for others or for our selves to do with as we wish. *The tithe must be brought in first; separate from any other gift or donation we might consider*. A donation or gift (over and above the tithe) is derived from the ninety percent after the tenth is removed. Substituting the tithe or mixing it with an offering is not an option without a

cost, as every tenth unit God/*Elohim* gives us is *under His supervision and counted as set-apart, holy unto Him* (Leviticus 27:31-33). The tithe is a set, standard, legal, eternal principle in His Court.

Morally and legally the tithe belongs to Yahweh. When His people willingly obey His heavenly principle on earth, that “active work” will produce future blessings and provision in their life. No one likes a test, but if we understand His Kingdom principle of sowing and reaping, we will gladly plant the seed of the tithe into our future and future generations to come. What use is there in holding on to a tithe that rightfully belongs to Yahweh? After reading of the five warnings earlier, if we purposely choose to ignore the principle of the tithe (or any other principle), our behavior will trigger the consequences that can bring poverty and even hinder our prayers. His instruction was not for His sake but because He desires to bless us. For what we offer up to Him, He multiplies back over and over again. His seed is to be given away (planted) so He can increase it a hundred fold, and we can continue to give it away, again and again, and again (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).

Where Do We Present Our Tithe?

The tithe is for the maintenance of the Tabernacle, which includes His priests. The upkeep of the priesthood is imperative, especially for today. Priests maintain the principles of the Tabernacle and teach those principles to God's/*Elohim* people. Our tithe belongs to *His* priests.

Today, many say they are rabbis and pastors of His word. Their followers respond in kind with a generous financial support. However, does their leadership and teaching line up with Scripture? Scripture says their lifestyle measures a real rabbi or pastor. Do they honor Yahweh, keep His Sabbath, and observe His Feast Days according to His word? Scripture says His priests (rabbis/pastors) are to teach three fundamental principles of His Kingdom on the Sabbath. *Firstly*, to honor Yahweh, they are to teach what is clean versus the unclean, holy versus the unholy, and how to distinguish between the two. *Secondly*, they are to teach His weekly Sabbath and how to observe it. And *thirdly*, they are to honor and teach Yahweh's Levitical Feast Days, which also include His Sabbaths.

🌿 **Leviticus 10:10-11** “that you [*priests*] may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD/*Yahweh* has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”

🌿 **Ezekiel 44:23-24** “And they [*the priests/rabbis/pastors*] shall teach My people *the difference* between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean. In controversy they shall stand as judges, *and* judge it according to My judgments. They [*the priests/rabbis/pastors*] shall keep My laws and My statutes in all My appointed meetings [Feast Days], and they [*the priests/rabbis/pastors*] shall hallow My Sabbaths.”

In other words, rabbis and pastors today are to teach what Moses taught on Mount Sinai each Sabbath – *as Yeshua is the same yesterday, today, and forever*.

- ✿ **John 5:45-47** “Do not think that I [*Yeshua*] shall accuse you to the Father; there is *one* who accuses you—Moses, in whom you trust. For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me [*Yeshua*]; for he [*Moses*] wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his [*Moses*] writings, how will you believe My words?”
- ✿ **Acts 15:21** “For Moses has had throughout many generations those [*the priests/rabbis/pastors*] who preach him in every city, being read in the synagogues every Sabbath.”

If one or more of these cardinal elements are missing from the leader we authorize to speak over our life, the priesthood of Yeshua (namely ourselves) will be in jeopardy and at significant risk of being disqualified. Furthermore, without the title for maintaining Yeshua’s *real* priests, the true caretakers of His earthly Tabernacle, His priesthood will perish along with His sheep (Isaiah 66:17; Ezekiel 34).

- ✿ **Ezekiel 22:26** “Her priests [*counterfeit priests*] have violated My law and profaned My holy things; they have not distinguished between the holy and unholy, nor have they made known *the difference* between the unclean and the clean; and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them.”
- ✿ **Isaiah 66:1** “Thus says the LORD/*Yahweh* [*to His people*]: ‘Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest [*Sabbath*]?’”
- ✿ **Acts 28:23** “So when they had appointed him [*Paul*] a day, many came to him at *his* lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God/*Elohim*, persuading them concerning Jesus/*Yeshua* from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.”

The Restoration of The Priesthood

The Book of Malachi is for the restoration of the priesthood. Therefore, Malachi’s teaching on the tithe is foundational for every believer today, as they are called a royal priesthood. “*But you [believer] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation*” (1Peter 2:9; Exodus 19:5-6).

Malachi speaks of a storehouse. We (believers) are to bring our tithes into the storehouse, to feed Yahweh’s people and for the maintenance of those who teach the *true* manna of His Redemption for the right of return.

- ✿ **Malachi 3:6-12** “*For I am the LORD/Yahweh, I do not change; therefore you [priests] are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you,*” says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts. “*But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’ ‘Will a man rob God/Elohim? Yet you have robbed Me!’ But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ ‘In tithes and offerings. You are*

cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this,” says the LORD/Yahweh of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field,” says the LORD/Yahweh of hosts; “and all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,” says the LORD/Yahweh of hosts.”

Those who clarify the difference between what is holy and what is unholy, how to distinguish between what is clean and unclean, how and when to celebrate Yahweh’s *true* Feast Days/*moedim* at His appointed times and why, and about His holy Sabbath and Sabbath years - these are the true priests and prophets who serve in His Tabernacle today. As priests, this is where *our firstfruits tithe* belongs (Leviticus 10:10-11; Ezekiel 44:23-24; 22:26).

 **Ezekiel 44:30** “The best of all *firstfruits* [*tithe*] of any kind, and every sacrifice of any kind from all your sacrifices, shall be the priest’s; also you shall give to the priest the first of your ground meal, to cause a blessing to rest on your house.”

The Tithe and The History of Rabbinic Authority

With the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE, the Levitical biblical priesthood was threatened by Jewish *rabbinic* vying for their position in the temple. The priests were primarily Sadducees. The rabbis rejected all Sadducean views. Nevertheless, seventy years later, the Levitical priesthood, along with the power and authority they held, was completely in the hands of the rabbis. Yahweh’s Priesthood was never a self-appointed *rabbinical* man-made religious system. Scripture clearly states that His appointed priesthood is an eternal priesthood by Covenant with the tribe of Levi. So strong was this rabbinical takeover that they even declared their own man-made laws. After their takeover, rabbinic law now held a higher authority over Scripture, in that if the temple were ever to be rebuilt, their rabbinic law was the final authority - even if Messiah appeared, He too would have to submit to their *rabbinic* authority!

It was Akiba, the father of rabbinic Judaism, who put *rabbinical* influence into motion. His decisions effectively dismantled the priest’s authority. He also nullified Yahweh’s law of the tithe, which supported the priests, by purposefully authorizing his law of gathering the grain too early so that the grain not gathered was free from the tithe. He further maintained that the grain was free from tithes unless it was stored in a protected barn. If it was stored in a court to which two people had keys, it was unprotected and free from tithes. These rabbinic interpretations of the tithe effectually eliminated the livelihood of the Levitical priests, their biggest competitor. In this way, Akiba firmly established his own sect called *Judaism* and said: “*to make the Torah what it should have been.*” Further, it was Akiba’s involvement in the Bar Kokhba rebellion that led to the never before *complete expulsion* of the Jewish people from the land of Israel, which lasted eighteen centuries (Mish. Ma’aserot 3.5; Mish. Ma’aser Sheni 4.8).

These Are My Commandments

🌿 **Leviticus 27:34** “These are the commandments which the LORD/*Yahweh* commanded Moses for the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.”

It was Yeshua who spoken the Word at Mount Sinai to the Children of Israel. These are His commandments. Yeshua commanded His people to keep His Word and exhorted them again in the book of John to keep His commandments and to walk in them.

🌿 **Isaiah 63:11-12** “Then he remembered the days of old, Moses and his people, saying: ‘Where is He who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of His flock? Where is *He who put His Holy Spirit within them*, who led them by the right hand of Moses, with His glorious arm, dividing the water before them to make for Himself an everlasting name.’”

🌿 **John 5:46-47** “For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he [*Moses*] wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”

🌿 **John 14:15-21; 15:10-12** “If you love Me, keep *My commandments*. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has *My commandments* and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him. If you keep *My commandments*, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept *My Father’s commandments* and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is *My commandment*, that you love one another as I have loved you.”

🌿 **Revelation 1:3** “Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

*Chazak! Chazak! Venischazeik!
Be Strong! Be Strong! And May We Be Strengthened!*

*Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker*

Reference

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www.elijahnet.org

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