

TO THOSE SEEKING ORDINATION THROUGH THE SEED OF ABRAHAM

Shalom! May His Joy, Wisdom and Peace be with you today and forever!

Biblical ordination is not just about getting a piece of paper that says you're 'ordained' in the eyes of Man. It's not just about intellectual knowledge concerning the Scriptures, or how 'on Fire' one is, although all these are important. It's about one's character and ability to minister. Our character and ability to minister comes from our time spent with the King where we are re-oriented and transformed into His Image (2nd Cor. 3:17-18). Out of this comes true knowledge and understanding for us and for ministry. We can only give to others what we ourselves have received from the Lord.

In seeking ordination through The Seed of Abraham you're voluntarily placing yourself under my spiritual authority and covering, hopefully, because you feel led of Yeshua to do so. I will be praying for you and lifting you up before our Father for your protection, blessing and maturing in our Lord Yeshua. I want to help you succeed in the calling that He has placed upon your life. I will be here to answer any questions you might have, as well as to counsel you in the way that you should go, both during and after the ordination process. It's in your knowing that He led you to me that will prove the bond of our relationship, in thick and thin times.

Being responsible before our God for ordaining you, there are standards that I'm going to hold you accountable to—biblical standards. As a minister and an elder in the Body of Messiah I will be examining you as to your character and relationship with the Lord, as well as your intellectual knowledge of the Word and how you relate to others. In this, Yeshua will use me to point out both strong and weak spiritual areas in your life and to build you up in the most holy faith. This way, when you are ordained, both of us can praise Yeshua for it.

Seeking to be ordained through The Seed of Abraham also means that you will become part of us, part of what Yeshua is doing through us, just as you would say, if you were seeking ordination through The United Methodist Church or any other denomination. At the end of the ordination process you'll be officially ordained as a Minister and Elder of The Seed of Abraham and receive a certificate and card stating such. These two terms are not titles, but functions that describe the same responsibility: to faithfully shepherd the flock that Yeshua places in your care. After ordination I will continue to be your earthly spiritual covering and authority.

A Biblical Standard

One biblical standard that I believe the Lord wants us to be walking in is the tithe, ten percent of one's gross income given to another, as the Lord leads. The tithe and offerings are a *concrete* way for us to see that our trust in Him is real. I believe Yahveh gave the tithing system as a means of providing for his full time ministers (Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:24; Dt. 25:4; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 1st Cor. 9:9; 1st Tim. 5:18, etc.).

We must tithe and give offerings if we want to walk in any semblance of God's Torah. This speaks louder than words about Yeshua, as far as our character is concerned. A number of years ago there was a bumper sticker that read, 'Honk if you believe in Jesus!' Then someone came up with a biblical response to that: 'Tithe if you believe in Jesus! Any goose can honk!'

Tithing is a tangible way of seeing that our walk lines up with our talk in this important area. It's a way that Yahveh has given to us so that we can see that we are walking with Him. When I tithe, I know I am obeying Yahveh and loving Him in a very material way. A level of our maturity is seen in obedience to His Word.

Anyone can proclaim Yeshua, but those that do so without tithing are deceiving themselves. Yeshua wants us to see that we are truly doing something for Him that costs us something. By tithing we are giving back to Him something of what He has given to us. In this, trust and obedience is seen, *by us*, concerning ourselves, on a very practical and spiritual level. If we don't tithe it shows us where our trust level with God is at, and conversely, reveals a covetous heart, which is idolatry and rebellion (1st Sam. 15:22-23; Prov. 21:6; Hab. 2:9; Rom. 7:7-8, etc.).

The tithe is the beginning—it's the floor, not the ceiling. The tithe is the minimum required by God, not the maximum, but most people who profess 'Christ' don't see it that way. I once read an article on Christians in the United States and the tithe. About ninety percent (90%) of Christians don't tithe. I was shocked. Most Christians only give one to three percent. This reveals where their heart is really at with Jesus. They are enslaved to Mammon.

How can they 'tip' God *less* than what one would give a waiter who brings them food? How could so many give so little to Him who gave so much? They are robbing God of His tithe, for the tithe is holy and it's Yahveh's (Lev. 27:30; Mal. 3:8-12).

Does God personally need our tithe and offerings? No, but His earthly servants do and the tithe and offerings are the way that the Lord has established for them to live and to minister to others. Some might say, 'Money doesn't matter to God. It's what's in my heart that counts.' One Scripture that addresses this foul attitude states that the 'heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?!' (Jer. 17:9) Truly, it's what's in the heart that counts, and the tithe helps us to see our hearts and the hearts of others. If God requires our tithe and offerings, who are we to say, 'it doesn't matter.' If we don't obey Him in earthly matters, will He open up His heavenly Treasures to us? (Luke 16:10-15; John 3:12)

Some say that tithing doesn't apply to New Testament believers because there is no Temple and priesthood, and the tithe only went to the priest. 'Besides' they'll say, 'that's the Law and we're no longer under the Law.' Aside from the fact that they don't understand what no longer being 'under the Law' means,¹ they completely forget about Father Abraham giving a tithe (a tenth) to Melchizedek (Gen. 14:18-20), and his grandson, Yakov (Jacob) gave his tithe to Yahveh (Gen. 28:22).

Tithing was a concept before the Law of Moses at Mt. Sinai and should be seen as equally valid for today just from this point, 'before the Law.' It's also valid from the point of view of the Torah, even though no Temple stands today, as I'll share in just a moment.

The tithe and offering is just the beginning of understanding how Papa God's system of giving is an expression of Love to Him and to His people. In the Book of Acts many of the early Jewish believers sold their lands and gave the entire proceeds to the Apostles to share with all that were in need (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37). Does one think that they stopped tithing to the Temple priests? The Temple wasn't destroyed until 40 years after the Resurrection.

¹ See please *No Longer Under the Law?* at <http://seedofabraham.net/No-Longer-Under-the-Law.pdf> to understand what Paul meant when he said that he was no longer under the Law.

Where Should the Tithe Go Today?

The ancient Israeli tithe went to the Levitical Priests. They, in turn, would give a tenth to the Sons of Aaron, who ministered in sacrifice, etc. (Num. 18:22-32). Without a Temple and Priesthood, though, should we tithe and give offerings? Aside from Father Abraham and Yakov's example, Yahveh has raised up another priesthood (Heb. 7:11-12; Rev. 1:6; 5:10). This one doesn't replace the Levitical Priesthood, but is currently the only divine operating priesthood. It's made up of everyone in the Body of Messiah, and the Lord has called many of them to serve Him full time, just as the Levites did. All of ancient Israel was holy, but the Levites didn't get an inheritance of land. They ministered full time, in Yahveh's name, on behalf of the people, in sacrifice, etc., and to the people, in teaching them the Torah (Mosaic Law), etc. They gave up their inheritance of the land, and received Yahveh and His tithe as their inheritance (Num. 18:20-26). Yahveh gave them His tithe so that they could eat and serve Him all their days without the need to provide for themselves and their families through secular work.

Some might say that that's true, but it doesn't apply to ministers today because the tithe was only meant for the Levitical Priests, but when we look at the authority that the Lord has given to His Body (Matt. 16:19; John 20:21-23), and the obvious parallel reality, we see that in situations that arise where there is no written Word about it, the Body is able to decide, with the Holy Spirit, what to do, and has the authority from Heaven to do it (as it is being led by the Spirit). A perfect case in point is when Yakov (James), the half-brother of Yeshua, ruled (literally judged, for the Greek words for Acts 15:19 are 'I judge') that the Gentiles didn't need to be physically covenantally circumcised in order to be saved (Acts 15:1, 6f.). In other words, an authoritative judgment was made by him that day that still stands—a judgment that had no earlier precedent in Torah.

There's also the case of the Apostles themselves, as Peter speaks of in Acts:

“And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, ‘It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables.’” (Acts 6:2)

The point here is that Peter and the other Apostles weren't fishing for a living any longer, but were living on the offerings of others because they were serving the Lord full time. Of course, this doesn't mean that they received the tithe of the people, but as Acts 4:32-37 speak of, many sold their lands and homes and gave all the proceeds to the Apostles for them and for those in need, which was more than a tithe. Also, we know that the tithe, along with all Mosaic Law, is still valid (Mt. 5:17-19).

Without a Temple and a Levitical Priesthood to give the tithe to (for the early believers continued to tithe to the Temple, as well as give offerings to the Apostles; Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; 21:20), the tithe should be given to full time ministers of the Lord Yeshua who live by faith in Him, or others (e.g. missionaries who live by faith; and also, those in need around us or across the world). Like the Levites, these ministers and missionaries don't have 'an inheritance in the Land' (in this case, a full time secular job or ministerial job [e.g. a pastor of a church who receives a salary], to support them), and so they, in a rightful and biblical sense, should receive 'the dormant tithe.' When the Temple is rebuilt, under Yeshua (Ezk. 40-48; Rev. 20:4, 6), it will be a different world then, and the tithe will revert to them who minister in the Temple, but for now, full time ministers and missionaries who live by faith in God are like the Levites and should receive a tithe plus offerings from the faithful for the work of their spiritual service that they perform for Yeshua and His Body.

A full time minister of Yeshua shouldn't work at a full time secular job as it seriously compromises his ability to receive ministry from the Lord, and therefore, to minister to others. He needs quality prayer time and Bible study time so that he can gain a solid, biblical foundation of the Word of God and carry the wisdom of God's Spirit to his people through ministry. The Body of Messiah should support these servants with their tithe and offerings, as well as be sensitive to the Spirit to give to those in need around them or

elsewhere.

Another picture of tithing to full time ministers is seen in Melchizedek. He pictures Yeshua as High Priest and King of Jerusalem (Gen. 14:17-20; Heb. 7:1-10). Melchizedek received the tithe from Father Abraham. This pictures Yeshua receiving the tithe from Israel (The Seed of Abraham; Jewish and Gentile believers). Therefore, Yeshua's Body should tithe to their Head via His ministers who trust Him for their food, clothing and shelter.

Some might say that Paul worked, and so should all ministers, but Paul was the exception to the rule as he plainly states. Also, he expressly tells us that he had a right not to do secular work, but he did so that no one could accuse him of abusing his right or hindering the Gospel (1st Cor. 9:1-18f.). All the other Apostles said that they weren't to serve tables (and this certainly could have been seen in the context of 'ministry work.' Instead, they would devote themselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:1-7). When we look at Paul's life, much of the time he wasn't working either, as he was either traveling from one place to another, or in prison. So 'his work' wouldn't be classified as a eight-to-five job, with a part time job on the side, day in and day out, with hospitalization, stock funds and other benefits, etc.

Now, I realize that you may already be tithing and giving offerings. I hope so. I want to encourage you to continue to do that, but if you are not tithing and giving offerings you need to begin. I'm not trying to make your life harder. I'm showing you what Yeshua wants you to do. If you're not sure about tithing, please see my article and talk to me about it after you read it: *The Tithe in Ancient Israel* at <http://seed-ofabraham.net/The-Tithe-in-Ancient-Israel.pdf>.

If you don't tithe and know that it's what you're supposed to do, you only need to wrestle with yourself and the Lord, repent, and begin to walk in this part of His Word. His nature is forgiveness and love and He will empower you to do His will in this area, as you give way to Him.

If you don't think that you should tithe and give offerings, let's discuss it. I think that one who doesn't tithe and give offerings is either uninformed as to the biblical reality, or doesn't know the depth of the love of God nor the depravity of his heart. Where is the heart to help others, as is so readily seen in the days of the Apostles (Acts 4:34; 24:17; Gal. 2:10, etc.)? How could someone who doesn't tithe, think they can minister? Not knowing the depth of the Love of God is why most believers don't come anywhere near to tithing in the Church. Their carnality justifies them. It's a perverse symptom of the superficial condition of many Christians. I couldn't, in good conscience, ordain anyone who refused to tithe and give offerings.

Believers who don't tithe and give offerings, out of their love for Papa God and Yeshua, greatly hinder the spreading of the Good News. This is pictured in the days when Nehemiah returned to Babylon for a season, after having been in Jerusalem. Because the people didn't continue to follow Torah, the priests had to return to farming (for a living) to support themselves and their families because the people weren't tithing. The people suffered greatly because the priests weren't able to rightly instruct the people in the Way of Yahveh (Neh. 13:10-13).

One might argue that they don't make enough to tithe, but I've never read in the Word where there are any minimum amounts that God says one shouldn't tithe from. Yeshua upheld this concept when He said to the Pharisees and the Scribes, who tithed on their garden spices (mint, anise and cumin), saying that they should have tithed on the small amount of garden spices and also the weightier matters of the Law:

“Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint, anise and cummin, but have neglected the weightier matters of the Law—justice and mercy and faith! These you ought to have done, *without leaving the others undone.*” (Matthew 23:23)

Someone else might say that they can't tithe because they have too many debts and bills to pay and God doesn't want to put a burden on them. The tithe, though, is the first part of the income, not the last. In both of these excuses, one must come to know the God who provides for our every need, in His Way and in

His time, and to deal with a heart that doesn't want to obey God through His Word, and learn to trust in the Creator of the Universe for his needs and to show him the way out of debt.

The only time that the Red Sea parted was when Israel had its back up against it, and the chariots and horsemen of Pharaoh were hurtling down upon them with murder in their eyes. Only God can make a way where none exists, whether in the Red Sea or in our financial situations, or in our carnal and stubborn hearts. Praise Yeshua!

Meetings and Tithing

After a season of us walking together I'll send you a ministerial license and card and you'll officially represent The Seed of Abraham. At some time in the future you'll be ordained and have full credentials. If you're not already leading a congregation or a home fellowship, some time in the future you'll want to prayerfully begin one, as Yeshua leads you. As it's raised up around you, with you as its minister, it'll be part of the network that the Lord is raising up through The Seed of Abraham all over the world. I ask that you call your group/congregation, The Seed of Abraham, and if you have a website or a blog to rename it The Seed of Abraham.²

I will work with you on leading and teaching the assembly, if you need me. Any problems, personal or congregational, that may come up can be discussed with me. When the Lord brings men who are called to be elders and deacons into your assembly, as they walk their ministry out before you, tell me about them. This way I can also be praying for them. In His time you will lay your hands on them for official certification of their ministry to your assembly, as either an elder or a deacon, with the certificate coming from The Seed of Abraham, signed by me and by you.

When you begin home fellowships or Bible studies, or a congregation, etc., allow the people to give their tithes and offerings to you, even if you're still working at a secular job. A workman is worthy of his hire (Dt. 25:4; Mt. 10:10) and in this case, you are feeding them spiritual manna and providing a place for the flock of God to worship, fellowship and learn. Hopefully, they will be grateful and give their tithe and offerings to the Lord through you. Have a basket or a pan in the back by the door, along with tithing/offering envelopes so people can give if they want to. They don't have to. You're not there to twist their arms, only to be an avenue for those who want to walk rightly. Here is something that Paul said, claiming his right to receive physical things for the spiritual things that he taught them:

“I am not speaking these things according to human judgment, am I? Or does not the Law also say these things? For it is written in the Law of Moses, ‘You must not muzzle the ox while he is threshing.’ God is not concerned about oxen, is He? Or is He speaking altogether for our sake? Yes, for our sake it was written, because the plowman ought to plow in hope, and the thresher to thresh in hope of sharing the crops. If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we should reap material things from you?’ (1st Cor. 9:8-11).

‘Those who are taught the Word must share in all good things with their teacher’ (Gal. 6:6).

Note that Paul uses the Law (1st Cor. 9:8) to make a point about receiving from those whom he ministered to. If the Law wasn't valid anymore, why would he do that? There are a number of places, just in First Corinthians, where Paul appeals to the Law to prove a point, which shows us that in his mind, Torah

² If it's not possible to rename your website/blog The Seed of Abraham, name it, The Seed of Abraham—(your last name). This will make it unique, but also align you to us.

was still valid:

1. Paul encourages the Corinthians to keep 'the Feast' (1st Cor. 5:6-8). This can only be Passover as he's just spoken about unleavened bread (Ex. 12:14-20; Lev. 23:6).
2. He sums up his ability to receive funds from them by citing the Law (9:8-9).
3. He tells them that women shouldn't speak in the assembly, again citing the Law (14:34).
4. In 16:8 Paul speaks of staying at Ephesus until Pentecost. This is the Feast of Weeks or *Shavu'ot* in Lev. 23:15-22. Why would Paul 'note time' by an outdated Jewish feast, and that, to Gentiles, unless he still kept the Law and taught it to them (Phil. 3:17)?

What would it be to teach on tithing and not allow the people to tithe to you? Allow the people you minister to, to tithe and give offerings to Yeshua through you. In so doing you give them an avenue to fulfill their godly responsibility.

Until you are able to obtain a bank account (usually a checking account) with the name, The Seed of Abraham, the people will need to make out their checks to you so that you can cash it or deposit it in your personal account. That's alright, for the tithe and the offering are actually for the minister's personal needs, not for the building fund, nor the church electric bill, etc. Unfortunately, the Church doesn't realize this. Most churches pay their ministers a salary from what is taken up from the people and use the rest for the building fund, etc. Those ministers are usually well taken care of. This is why I suggest giving your tithe to a minister or missionary who doesn't have a salary, but who lives by faith in Yeshua for his needs, or to people who are in need. Let the Lord lead you as to where you should give your tithe and offerings.

If you have any questions or concerns about what you've read, please feel free to ask me. I want to help you to grow stronger in our Lord. I want Messiah Yeshua to do mighty works through you. Let us gird up our belts and be about our Father's Business!

Blessings from Above,

Aram Yehoshua

P.S. The ordination process is rigorous both academically and spiritually. There have been more than 100 men who have begun the ordination process, but less than 15 have persevered. Many are called, but few are chosen. Temptations, the cares of this world, and attacks by the enemy are very real. Messiah Yeshua is in the process of revealing Himself to us and in us. We all have 'images' or pictures of Yeshua that must be shattered and destroyed so that the Living Yeshua can rightfully be revealed to us and take His place within us as our Savior and King. For an image, no matter how exact it might be, is not the Real Thing, just as a picture of you, is not really you. It's only an image, a picture. This 'shattering' in us is the Work of the Holy Spirit. When this happens we see more clearly who we are and who our Messiah really is. Yeshua doesn't want us to worship an image of Him, but Him. This is also part of my job description, as the Lord may use me in your life to cause you to question 'sacred' things that you think are of Him.

Disclaimer

This article is *not* a directive saying that you must tithe and give offerings to *The Seed of Abraham*. You are free to do with your personal and congregational tithes as Yeshua leads you.³

³ Revised on 19 September 2016.