



Portion:

Title:

SCRIPTURES

- Numbers 16:1-18:32
- Hebrews 8:1-6
- Matthew 5:13-16
- Malachi 3:8-12
- Romans 12:1-2
- Joshua 24:15

THE BEST OF THE BEST

- Story-at-a-Glance
- The Giving Shadow
- A Covenant of Salt
- The Giving Reality
- Reasonable Service
- Choose this Day

When I was a new believer, almost 30 years ago, I was fascinated while listening to sermons, and wondered how those pastors knew so much about the Bible and how they were able to extract such amazing messages from the Scriptures. Through those early years, I listened to sermon after sermon with keen interest. But, as the years passed I noticed something. Call it discernment or maybe it was being judgmental. I know each gift that God gives us has its equal but opposite counterpart. So, I have to be careful here to not cross into judgmental.

I noticed over the years that more and more of these sermons began to sound canned. They seemed almost mechanical in nature,

as if they were part of some obligatory statement a lawyer must give, commenting on his client's position. I think in politics you'd call it the "party line." There seemed to be no life in them, no freshness in the messages, no abundance. It was as if these sermons were downloaded by robots and repeated, flavored only by various charismatic personalities. I realized that for a message to have real power, it could not just follow some formulaic model of "best sermon techniques," but instead needed to be inspired by an overflow of what was happening in "that man's life!" For the truth to pour out, there needed to be an overflow of the Spirit within.

This discovery has resurfaced in my mind in recent weeks, as I look back at the last few messages. Sure I believe they are true. A few weeks ago it was "Follow Me." You have to give it all up, no matter what, lay it all down, and run after Y'shua with all you've got, from that moment He called you, and every day since. And then in "Self-Preservation" last week—you better be ready to give your very life for your faith. If you think you can preserve your way of life, or life itself, you will lose it. Again, all-in is the only way. And now this week, "The Best of the Best." Do you think you can offer God anything other than your absolute best? Do you think anything less than making your faith walk your top priority is acceptable? You'd be wrong.

So, why these messages, why now? I believe we have reached a turning point in history. Never before has the following option been more critical. "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve with your entire being, the gods of this world, or Yahweh and His Son." I know the choice I've made, what about you?

THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE

To the Levites: As you know, you will receive tithes from the children of Israel as your inheritance. You are to take a tenth of the tithe and make a heave offering of it to Yahweh. In other words, from the totality of tithes to the Levites, the tenth of all of Israel's increase, the Levites must take tithe (a tenth) of that and give it to Aaron, the high priest. On behalf of Yahweh, Aaron will receive **the best of the best of the whole tithe**, what Yahweh considers **the consecrated part**. Once the tenth of the tenth, the best of the best, is offered, the rest shall be accounted to the Levites for their own use as their inheritance. (Remember, the Levites will not take part in a land inheritance.) **Once they have given the best of the best to Yahweh**, they will no longer be at risk of the sin of holding back the consecrated part, and **freed to enjoy the ninety percent that remains**. But, be warned, if you try to keep back the tithe of the tithe due to Yahweh, what He would consider as "profaning the holy gifts," you will suffer! (Paraphrase from Numbers 18:25-32)

OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE

“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve**, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But **as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**”” Joshua 24:15 NKJV

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your **reasonable service**. And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that **good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**” Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This week's Torah reading tells the story of how Korah led an unsuccessful rebellion against Moses and Aaron. After thwarting the insurrection, God confirms Aaron in the priesthood and provides additional legislation regarding priestly and Levitical privileges and responsibilities. You can see last year's teaching and notes on this portion here: [A House Divided](#)

Numbers 16

2. **Rebellion Against Moses and Aaron:** Korah leads 250 leaders, men of renown, against Moses as he accuses Moses of exalting himself as 'more holy' than the rest of them, making himself a prince among men, and of taking too much upon himself.
3. Moses' powerful response is a declaration that Yahweh will show them all who is 'holy' by drawing near to Himself those He has chosen.
4. Moses tells Korah to have him and all his cohorts put fire in censers to bring before Yahweh the next day and Yahweh will choose.
5. Moses then asks some powerful questions and makes a powerful declaration, challenging the seeming dissatisfaction Korah and his compatriots have for their special calling inside the priesthood.
 - (a) **"Is it a small thing** to you that the God of Israel has **separated you** from the congregation of Israel, **to bring you near to Himself**, to do the work of the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to serve them?" "And are you seeking the priesthood also?"
 - (b) "Therefore you and all your company *are* gathered together against the Lord. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?"

6. **Now catch this Satanic shift:** Korah gives a brutally sarcastic and rebellious answer to Moses' directive that they come up before Yahweh the next day to determine who He will draw near to Himself as His chosen. It's almost beyond comprehension, and in reality as is always the case, the rebelling is against Yahweh, not man (Moses)! They even think Moses is calling them up so he can enact his own punishment against them, to quell any uprising and silence the voices of anyone exposing his secret agenda of exalting himself .

(a) **Their answer:** "We will not come up! **Is it a small thing** that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us?"

(1) **Did you catch it?** Moses is being absolutely authentic as he reminds Korah that the sons of Levi have been separated from all the tribes of Israel for such honorable and awesome positions, each called to specific duties. He's shocked that they are so dissatisfied and jealous that their unique calling is not appreciated, and instead that they feel disdain for their role, even unto coveting the role of Aaron and his sons. They answer Moses back so sarcastically, even to use Moses' own words, "**Is it a small thing...?**" Moses reminds them that their unique calling is

NOT to be looked upon as insignificant, but rather as an immense honor. And in response they accuse Moses of orchestrating his own agenda so he can stay in power.

(b) They continue: “You have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, **nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards**. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!”

(1) Yahweh promised to provide for all the Levites in a special way WITHOUT giving that tribe an “inheritance in the land.” He called them into special service instead and, as such, He would provide for them abundantly without them needing to participate in dividing the land. I guess Yahweh’s promises and provision are not good enough!

7. Moses entreats Yahweh to respond as such: “Do not respect their offering.”

(a) **Showdown Time:** Aaron will take his censor representing the priesthood, and you, Korah, and your 250 men, each take your own censor before Yahweh.

(b) So Korah gathered them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting, but notice that Korah, Dathan, and Abiram stay at their tents to “protect themselves” from what they believe will be Moses’ punishment. And the glory of the Lord appears to all the congregation.

8. **A NEW THING was about to happen:** Yahweh tells Moses to separate from these rebels and Moses even intercedes on their behalf. "Please don't kill them all just because one man, Korah, has led so many astray."
9. **Yahweh warns:** "Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram." And Moses warns everyone to get away from the tents and the belongings of these men, so they are not consumed with them.
10. **What is at stake here?** Has Moses been sent by Yahweh to do all these works or has he appointed himself?
 - (a) **Special Note:** *Notice that this is the EXACT spirit in operation when a scribe accuses Y'shua of casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub in Matthew 12 and when the Jews accuse Him of coming with "His own" deceiving doctrine in John 7.*
11. These key men leading the rebellion, Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, stood at the door of their tents with their wives, their sons, and their little children. (They would not come up for the challenge as they believed it was just a scheme of Moses to lure them out.) Then Moses lays down the challenge; "if these men go on to live natural lives and die like all men, then it is true, Yahweh has not sent me and indeed I have done this on my own strength." "But if Yahweh does a new thing, and the earth opens

its mouth and swallows them up with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into the pit, then you will understand that these men have rejected Yahweh.”

12. And that is exactly what happens, the rebels, their families and all their belongings are swallowed by the earth as the people watching run for their lives. Oh, and what about the 250 conspirators who had joined Korah in the insurrection who were standing in rebellion with their censors at the door of the tabernacle? They arrogantly showed up with their fire-filled censors and were **consumed by the fire** of Yahweh!

(a) **Special Note:** *This reminds me of three separate narratives:*

- (1) The profane fire offered by Aarons sons Nadab and Abihu in Leviticus 10:1-3, when Yahweh consumes them with fire.
- (2) Later in 1 Kings 18:1-46 (read it all), in the third year of the drought, when Elijah tells Ahab he is the only prophet left and that he will bring the rain. Ahab just falsely accuses him of being the cause of the drought and the one who troubles Israel, and just wants him killed. But Elijah challenges Ahab’s 450 false prophets of Baal, and they are exposed as frauds, as their religious antics cannot produce fire. Elijah does call down the fire of Yahweh which consumes his waterlogged sacrifice and then he turns his

attention to all the false prophets and has them executed. Finally he prophesies that the rain will come and the heavy rain falls with Ahab as the witness.

- (3) It also reminded me of 2 Kings 1:1-18 when Ahaziah wished to inquire of Baal-Zebub about whether or not he would recover from his injuries from a fall, and he sends messengers to inquire of the pagan god. The messengers are instead intercepted by Elijah. Elijah sends back a word to Ahaziah that because he inquired of a pagan god, he would not recover, but instead die. When the report gets back to Ahaziah, three times he sends a captain plus fifty men, presumably to apprehend Elijah. The first two captains and their men are **consumed by fire** at the word of Elijah, **“If I am a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men.”** The third captain begs for mercy and he and his men are spared. Instead, an angel of Yahweh tells Elijah to go down with this last group and to confront Ahaziah. He does so and **Ahaziah perishes** at the words of Yahweh which Elijah had spoken.

13. **Back to mopping up Korah’s rebellion:** Yahweh tells Moses to have Eleazar collect the 250 censers which were scattered among the incinerated ashes of the rebels. The censers are holy

and are not to be treated as common. He tells them to melt them down into plates that they can use to cover the altar, as a memorial of what happens when you rebel against Yahweh. **No one outside (of their calling) should come and make an offering before Yahweh!**

14. You would think this entire incident was enough proof of Moses' authenticity for all those who witnessed the fruit of the rebellion. But instead, on the next day, **the people complain against Moses and Aaron**, blaming THEM for killing the people as if Moses was instituting his own agenda. It is absolutely beyond imagination that this is what they have concluded.
- (a) **The result:** Yahweh is ready to consume them ALL and sends a PLAGUE and they start dropping like flies. If it were not for the decisive action of Moses to stop the plague, by quickly instructing Aaron to make intercession, the whole of the congregation may have fallen that day in the wilderness! Even so, 14,700 people died that day, in addition to all who were swallowed up or consumed by fire the previous day!

Numbers 17

15. **The Budding of Aaron's Rod:** Yahweh instructs the heads of each tribe to bring a rod to the tabernacle to put their tribe's name on it and that He will cause one of them to bud, like it is still alive. This testimony should end the complaining of the

people as they witness the the miracle and the clear message from the Almighty that it is His agenda at play here!

16. **The outcome:** Not only does the rod of Aaron, representing Levi, sprout buds the next day, but it puts forth blossoms and ripe almonds!

Numbers 18

17. **Duties of Priests and Levites:** Next is a review of the priestly calling on the Levites and their duties. They will bear the iniquity of the tabernacle and attend to all its needs, to the needs of the people, and to the needs of Aaron himself as a gift to him. However, just because they are in the priestly line as a Levite, it does not mean they can touch the articles of the sanctuary. Permission to do so will be very specific and anyone who operates outside of that permission will die.
18. **Offerings for Support of the Priests:** Yahweh speaks to Aaron and reminds him that there is a portion of the offerings of the people that are reserved for him and his family forever. He calls it “a covenant of salt {v. 19} forever before the Lord with you and your descendants with you.”
19. Why? Because the Levites “shall have no inheritance in their land, nor shall they have any portion among them; Yahweh is their portion and their inheritance among the children of Israel.

20. **Tithes for Support of the Levites:** The Priests get the tithes of Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform. It shall be a statute forever as they shall have no other inheritance.
21. **The Tithes of the Levites:** The Levites shall tithe on the tithe! The best tenth of what the people have is offered to the priests and the best tenth of that tenth is offered by the priests to Yahweh! The rest is theirs to use in their households as a reward for their work.

STORY-AT-A-GLANCE

1. **A Portion Filled with Important Topics that We are NOT Covering Today, so... go watch last year's teaching!**

A. A House Divided

- (1) What you are are missing!
- (a) You can see last year's teaching and notes on this portion here: [A House Divided](#)

B. Story-at-a-Glance

- (1) I want what is yours!
- (a) The covetous accusations of Korah
- (b) The Rebellion against Moses and Aaron
- (c) The green-eyed monster—envy and jealousy personified

- (d) The Spirit of the Humble and Contrite vs. the Iniquity of Covetousness
 - (e) Challenging dissatisfaction
 - (f) How pride distorts reality
 - (g) What fuels dissatisfaction? Not being satisfied with the the gifts you have been given by Yahweh
- (2) Jealous Accusations
- (a) He's not from Yahweh; He comes on His own authority!
 - (b) Both Moses and Y'shua faced these same type of accusations ("You are coming in your OWN authority").
 - (c) Be sure of this, "A house divided cannot stand!"
 - (d) Making yourself the authority IS the height of pride and the hallmark of Satan's rebellion!
 - (e) What it looks like when a leader ACTUALLY DOES operate on his own authority!
 - (f) Rebellion, and how it is the sin witchcraft!
 - (g) Man twists his rebellious disobedience into a declaration of obedience by ridiculous excuses! This is the height of witchcraft!
 - (h) Like Aaron in the Golden Calf incident and Korah in his rebellion proclaiming that they were doing it all for the benefit of the people!
- (3) The Truth is Always Exposed

- (a) Yahweh always picks sides in what seems to be an ultimate showdown!
 - 1. First you have the lying accusation...
 - 2. Then you have the challenge...
 - 3. Then the leaders and people are forced to pick sides... "My sheep hear My Voice!"
 - 4. Then...
- (4) Yahweh Separates His Side from Evil
 - (a) It becomes obvious who is on Yahweh's side...
 - (b) And the punishment for the evil side is definitive!
 - (c) Yahweh always gives a final warning, so there is no excuse for those who wish to stand in rebellion.
 - (d) Then He drops the hammer!
 - (e) And the "The seat of judgment always returns to the way of the righteousness."

THE GIVING SHADOW

2. Pay Attention to the High Priest

A. Excellent preparation for this message: study and watch the two previous week's messages

- (1) Two Weeks Ago: ["Follow Me"](#)
 - (a) *"Follow Me!" Have you heard those words? Have they echoed in your heart so loudly that they drown out all*

other sounds? I pray they have. I remember the day like it was yesterday, almost 30 years ago. As if someone suddenly flipped on the lights and instantly the world around me became bright. No, you rarely know how dark it is until the lights go on. For me it was the day I heard those words, "Follow Me!" I have been running hard after Him ever since and I don't regret a minute of it. I remember the words of my future wife years later, as I sat next to her on a plane in Panama, on the mission trip on which we met. "When I die, I want my gravestone to say, "All used up for God!" I recall thinking in that moment, "I'm going to marry this girl!

(b) *It's the pattern for sure; Y'shua says, "Follow Me!" And if you do, you will have joined the greatest adventure imaginable. Peter wondered what would come of those who would join Him; "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?" If you've walked with Him for any length of time, you know the answer. It will be the hardest most challenging life imaginable, one filled with daily opportunities to take up your cross and die to everything you once held dear. And it will be the most glorious and satisfying decision you will ever make! "Follow Me?" Yes, I will*

follow you anywhere and do anything You ask. I couldn't imagine life any other way; how about you?

(2) Last Week: [Self-Preservation](#)

- (a) *Will you go forward into your destiny or do you want to go back to Egypt? We all know what “going back to Egypt” means. It remains as powerful imagery for believers today. Back in the wilderness days of Israel, the people had the tendency to complain as soon as things ahead seemed challenging or bleak. “We should return to Egypt; this was a mistake; let’s regroup and go back.*
- (b) *And this was their tendency, even after all they had witnessed: the ten plagues; the annihilation of their captors; an ocean that parted; water from a rock; bread from heaven; the voice of their God on the mountain; a betrothal to the Almighty; and a cloud by day and fire by night to lead them.*
- (c) *Then, when they had finally arrived at their destiny, they were given a simple task. Here are your marching orders; go in and survey the Land of Promise and come back with a report. God was looking for them to discover a few facts about their upcoming inheritance. “What is the land like? What are the people like? What are the cities like? What is the fruit like?” And here are*

*some report guidelines: Do not rebel against Yahweh!
Do not fear the people of the land! And always
remember, Yahweh is with you and against them! Then,
with all that information, make a simple choice—
determine if are you able or are not able to take the
land and receive the promises of God.*

*(d) In the end we discover that there are two spirits in
operation here, and one potential snag that could derail
the whole thing, the strong desire to preserve ones own
life. One spirit says, “we are able!” and the other, “we
are not!” One is willing to lose his own life for the sake
of God’s promises, the other is all about self-
preservation. Which spirit is controlling you?*

B. Keep this context in mind as we explore Numbers 18!

- (1) Y’shua: a **High Priest** who can sympathize with our weaknesses...
 - (a) “For we do not have a **High Priest** who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. **Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:15-16 NKJV
- (2) Y’shua: the Minister the **true tabernacle**

- (a) “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: **We have such a High Priest**, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, **a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle** which the Lord erected, and not man. For **every high priest** is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices. **Therefore it is necessary that this One also have something to offer.** For if He were on earth, He would not be a priest, since there are priests who offer the gifts according to the law; **who serve the copy and shadow** of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, “See that you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.” But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a better covenant, which was established on better promises.” Hebrews 8:1-6 NKJV

C. Shadowy Details

(1) Offerings

- (a) “And the Lord spoke to Aaron: “Here, I Myself have also given you **charge of My heave offerings**, all the **holy gifts** of the children of Israel; I have given them as a portion to you and your sons, as an ordinance forever.

This shall be yours of the most holy things reserved from the fire: every offering of theirs, every grain offering and every sin offering and every trespass offering which **they render to Me**, shall be most holy for you and your sons. In a most holy place you shall eat it; every male shall eat it. It shall be holy to you.” Numbers 18:8-10 NKJV

(2) The Heave Offering

- (a) **“This also is yours: the heave offering of their gift,** with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel; **I have given them to you,** and your sons and daughters with you, as an ordinance forever. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. **“All the best** of the oil, **all the best** of the new wine and the grain, **their firstfruits which they offer to the Lord,** I have given them to you. Whatever **first ripe fruit** is in their land, which they bring to the Lord, shall be yours. Everyone who is clean in your house may eat it. **“Every devoted thing in Israel shall be yours.** “Everything that first opens the womb of all flesh, which they bring to the Lord, whether man or beast, shall be yours; nevertheless the firstborn of man you shall surely redeem, and the firstborn of unclean animals you shall redeem. And

those redeemed of the devoted things you shall redeem when one month old, according to your valuation, for five shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs. But the firstborn of a cow, the firstborn of a sheep, or the firstborn of a goat you shall not redeem; they are holy. You shall sprinkle their blood on the altar, and burn their fat as an offering made by fire for a sweet aroma to the Lord. And their flesh shall be yours, just as the wave breast and the right thigh are yours.” Numbers 18:11-18 NKJV

(b) Some thoughts on THE HEAVE OFFERING:

1. It is a consecrated portion of an offering that was ceremonially raised and lowered in dedication to God and that afterward was reserved for the officiating priest's use.
2. It is sometimes referred to as the elevation offering, as it consists of presenting the offering by a motion up and down, indicating Yahweh as the ruler of heaven, distinguished from the wave offering, which consisted of a repeated movement in a horizontal direction, indicating Yahweh as ruler of the earth.
3. This is also called the “great offering” because it is the first of all tithes given on produce of the land and

thus is given from the “greatest quantity of produce” before any other gift is given.

- (c) The Heave or Elevation Offering— What removes anything blocking your path! He is high and lifted up!
1. “And one shall say, “Heap it up! Heap it up! Prepare the way, Take the stumbling block out of the way of My people.” [**“Keep building! Keep building! Clear the way! Remove everything blocking my people’s path!” CJB**] For thus says **the High and Lofty One** [**“the One who is high and lifted up.” NIV**] Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:14-15 NKJV

D. Covenant of Salt

- (1) Heave offerings—a covenant of salt
 - (a) **““All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the Lord, I have given to you and your sons and daughters with you as an ordinance forever; it is a covenant of salt forever before the Lord with you and your descendants with you.””** Numbers 18:19 NKJV

(2) Origin

- (a) “And every offering of your grain offering you shall **season with salt**; you shall not allow the **salt of the covenant** of your God to be lacking from your grain offering. With all your offerings you shall offer salt.”

Leviticus 2:13 NKJV

(3) The context of the covenant is not about the salt at all—

(a) An enduring covenant

1. The notion of an enduring covenant—one that continues through the generations in particular—is important in both Numbers (where the verse specifically discusses Aaron’s descendants) and in II Chronicles (where this is part of a demand by David’s great-grandson, Abijah, that a challenger submit to his authority).
2. What is the connection of this “covenant” of salt to sacrifices and these references? Salt is a picture of covenants that endure. They are resistant to decay! Our verse in Leviticus refers to the salt requirement in sacrifices, as a covenant itself, and the other verses use salt to emphasize their lasting endurance: “of **salt**” points to the **covenant** as “a perpetual

covenant, because of the use of **salt** as a preservative”.

(4) Let’s look further at this “covenant of salt” in Numbers, II Chronicles, II Samuel and Matthew.

(a) Numbers 18:19—to you and your sons and daughters...

1. ““All the heave offerings of the holy things, which the children of Israel offer to the Lord, **I have given to you and your sons and daughters with you** as an ordinance **forever; it is a covenant of salt** forever before the Lord with you and your descendants with you.””

(b) II Chronicles 13:4-5–Dominion forever

1. “Then Abijah stood on Mount Zemaraim, which is in the mountains of Ephraim, and said, “Hear me, Jeroboam and all Israel: Should you not know that **the Lord God of Israel gave the dominion over Israel to David forever, to him and his sons, by a covenant of salt?**”

(c) II Samuel 7:13-16 NKJV— To David and his house forever (Do you see how it is generational?)...

1. “He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits

iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. **And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever** before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”

- (d) Matthew 5:13-16– Covenant of Salt—what good is your covenant if it does not endure?
 - (a) ““You are the **salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot** by men. “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16 NKJV
- (5) The Tithe
 - (a) Why the tithe goes to the Levites...
 1. “Then the Lord said to Aaron: “**You shall have no inheritance in their land**, nor shall you have any portion among them; I am your portion and your

inheritance among the children of Israel." Numbers
18:20 NKJV

(b) The tithes of Israel as an inheritance

1. ""Behold, **I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance** in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. Hereafter **the children of Israel shall not come near the tabernacle** of meeting, lest they bear sin and die. **But the Levites shall perform the work of the tabernacle** of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a **statute forever**, throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. **For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up as a heave offering to the Lord**, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.' ""

Numbers 18:21-24 NKJV

(6) The Tithe of the Tithe!

- (a) The Best of the Best—The command to bring the best of the best to the High Priest as if it is being presented to Yahweh...

1. “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, “Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: ‘**When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance**, then you shall offer up a heave offering **of it** to the Lord, **a tenth of the tithe**. And your heave offering shall be reckoned to you as though it were the grain of the threshing floor and as the fullness of the winepress. **Thus you shall also offer a heave offering to the Lord from all your tithes which you receive from the children of Israel, and you shall give the Lord’s heave offering from it to Aaron the priest. Of all your gifts you shall offer up every heave offering due to the Lord, from all the best of them, the consecrated part of them.**’ Therefore you shall say to them: ‘**When you have lifted up the best of it, then the rest shall be accounted to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor and as the produce of the winepress.** You may eat it in any place, you and your households, for it is your reward for your work in the tabernacle of meeting. ***And you shall bear no sin because of it, when you have lifted up the best of it.** **But you shall not profane the holy gifts of the**

children of Israel, lest you die.’” Numbers 18:25-32

NKJV

- a) “And one shall say, “Heap it up! Heap it up!
Prepare the way, *Take the stumbling block out of
the way of My people.” [**“Keep building! Keep
building! Clear the way! *Remove everything
blocking my people’s path!” CJB**] For thus says **the
High and Lofty One** [**“the One who is high and
lifted up.” NIV**] Who inhabits eternity, whose
name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place,
With him who has a contrite and humble spirit, To
revive the spirit of the humble, And to revive the
heart of the contrite ones.” Isaiah 57:14-15 NKJV

(7) And who is OUR HIGH PRIEST?

- (a) **“Now this is the main point of the things we are saying:
We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right
hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a
Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle
which the Lord erected, and not man.” Hebrews 8:1-2**
NKJV

Summary: THE GIVING SHADOW

1. Pay Attention to the High Priest
2. Excellent preparation for this message: study [“Follow Me”](#) and [Self-Preservation](#)
3. Keep this context in mind. Y’shua is a our High Priest
4. The Heave Offering: in Numbers 18, it is the consecrated portion of an offering preserved for the High Priest.
5. AKA the Elevation Offering: a motion up and down to Yahweh as the ruler of heaven. Wave offering: a horizontal motion to Yahweh as ruler of the earth.
6. The Heave or Elevation Offering— What removes anything blocking your path!
7. Covenant of Salt: indicative of an enduring, generational covenant, like to David or though Y’shua to us (we are the salt of the earth.)
8. The Tithe of the Tithe: We are to give the best of the best to Yahweh and Y’shua. This will remove everything blocking our paths!

THE GIVING REALITY

3. Giving to OUR HIGH PRIEST

A. Don't Hold Back

(1) Will a man rob God?

(a) **“Will a man rob God?** 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 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 of hosts; “And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land,” Says the Lord of hosts.” Malachi 3:8-12 NKJV

(b) Test Him and experience your blessing when...

1. ...you **bear no sin because of it, when you have lifted up the best of it. ...when you don't** profane the

holy gifts of the children of Israel... See Numbers
18:25-32

2. He takes the stumbling block out of the way of His people.
3. Clears the way! Removes everything blocking His people's path!
4. When He is the One who is high and lifted up. See Isaiah 57:14-15

(2) The Cheerful Giver

- (a) "But this I say: **He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.** So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for **God loves a cheerful giver.**" II Corinthians 9:6-7 NKJV

B. Make a choice!

(1) Choose this Day

- (a) "And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve,** whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But **as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.**" Joshua 24:15 NKJV

(2) Lukewarm is not an option!

(a) ““And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: **“I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.** Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire **[the best of the best!]**, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. **As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.** Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ”” Revelation 3:14-22 NKJV

C. The Covenant of Salt—Discipleship Style!

(1) You cannot go halfway with God—it takes all-in!

(a) “Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, “If anyone comes to Me and **does not hate** his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, **he cannot be My disciple**. And **whoever does not bear his cross** and come after Me **cannot be My disciple**. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and **count the cost**, whether he has enough to finish it—lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, ‘This man began to build and was not able to finish’? Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.” Luke 14:25-32 NKJV

(2) You simply must forsake all!

(a) “So likewise, whoever of you **does not forsake all** that he has **cannot be My disciple**.” Luke 14:33 NKJV

(3) The Covenant of Salt!

- (a) **“Salt is good; but if the salt has lost its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill, but men throw it out. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”** Luke 14:34-35 NKJV

D. A Half Attempt

(1) First Solomon asks for wisdom

- (a) “At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, **“Ask! What shall I give you?”** And Solomon said: “You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. **Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.** For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?” **The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing.**

Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, behold, I have done according to your words; see, **I have given you a wise and understanding heart**, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.” I Kings 3:5-15 NKJV

- (2) Halfsies never works—Solomon puts that wise and understating heart right to work!
 - (a) “Now two women who were harlots came to the king, and stood before him. And one woman said, “O my Lord, this woman and I dwell in the same house; and I

gave birth while she was in the house. Then it happened, the third day after I had given birth, that this woman also gave birth. And we were together; no one was with us in the house, except the two of us in the house. **And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.** So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side, while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, **and laid her dead child in my bosom.** And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was, dead. But when I had examined him in the morning, indeed, he was not my son whom I had borne." Then the other woman said, "No! But the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." And the first woman said, "No! But the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king. And the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son, who lives, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! But your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.' " **Then the king said, "Bring me a sword."** So they brought a sword before the king. And the king said, **"Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other."** **Then the woman whose son was living** spoke to the king, for she

yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, “O my Lord, **give her the living child, and by no means kill him!**” But the other said, “**Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him.**” So the king answered and said, **“Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother.”** And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to a” I Kings 3:16-28 NKJV

E. If half-in won't work, what will?

(1) What's reasonable?

(a) A living sacrifice! It's Reasonable not Extraordinary!

1. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies **a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, **which is your reasonable service**. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

(b) Crucified with Christ

1. “I have been **crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,

who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians
2:20 NKJV

(2) You cannot sell a car—keep a set of keys—and still drive it
whenever you wish! It was bought with a price!!!

(a) “For **you were bought at a price**; therefore glorify God
in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” I
Corinthians 6:20 NKJV

(3) You cannot be forgiven for your sin and then go back to
your sin whenever you wish!

(a) **Forgetting those things which are behind:** “Not that I
have already attained, or am already perfected; but I
press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ
Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count
myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do,
**forgetting those things which are behind and reaching
forward to those things which are ahead, I press
toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
in Christ Jesus.** Therefore let us, as many as are mature,
have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise,
God will reveal even this to you. Nevertheless, to the
degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the
same rule, let us be of the same mind.” Philippians
3:12-16 NKJV

(b) **Old things have passed away:** “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation; old things have passed away;** behold, all things have become new.” II Corinthians 5:17 NKJV

(c) Your sin is gone!

1. **As the east is from the west:** “As far as the east is from the west, **So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**” Psalms 103:12 NKJV

2. **Don’t forget they are gone!** “For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has **forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.**” II Peter 1:9 NKJV

3. **Does not—Cannot sin!** “Whoever has been born of God **does not sin**, for His seed remains in him; and he **cannot sin**, because he has been born of God.” (I John 3:9 NKJV) “We know that whoever is born of God **does not sin;** but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.” I John 5:18 NKJV

F. Living with NO regrets and NO excuses

(1) Poured out

(a) **A sacrifice and service to others:** “Yes, and if **I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice**

and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.” Philippians 2:17-18 NKJV

- (b) **“Timothy Knows!** But I trust in the Lord Jesus **to send Timothy to you** shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me. But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.” Philippians 2:19-24 NKJV
- (2) Timothy was well trained...Fight the good fight, finish the race—no regrets—no excuses!
- (a) **To Timothy—He knows to be sacrifice and service to others: “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness,** which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only

but also to all who have loved His appearing.” II

Timothy 4:6-8 NKJV

(3) Your best of the best: Rise—Open your eyes! Do not sleep!

(a) “I **rise before the dawning of the morning**, And cry for help; I hope in Your word.” Psalms 119:147 NKJV

(b) “**Do not love sleep**, lest you come to poverty; **Open your eyes**, and you will be satisfied with bread.”

Proverbs 20:13 NKJV

(4) Don’t let your salt lose its flavor!

(a) “**You are the salt of the earth**; but if the salt **loses its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.” Matthew 5:13 NKJV

(b) “Salt is good; **but if the salt has lost its flavor**, how shall it be seasoned? **It is neither fit for the land nor for the dunghill**, but men throw it out. **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**” Luke 14:34-35 NKJV

(5) Choose the better way....

(a) **Mary has chosen...** “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “**you are worried and upset about many things**, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. **Mary has chosen what is better** and it will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:41-42 NIV

(b) **Seek First...** “But **seek first his kingdom** and his righteousness, **and all these things will be given to you as well**. Therefore **do not worry about tomorrow**, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” Matthew 6:33-34 NIV

Summary: THE GIVING REALITY

1. Don't Hold Back—Don't rob your High Priest
2. Be a Cheerful Giver
3. Make a choice; Choose this Day whom you will serve.
4. Lukewarm is not an option!
5. The Covenant of Salt—Discipleship Style! You cannot go halfway with God—it takes all-in!
6. Salt is not good if it loses its flavor
7. God is not into half-hearted attempts
8. If half-in won't work, what will?
 - a) Be the living sacrifice! It's Reasonable not Extraordinary!
 - b) Be Crucified with Christ!
9. You cannot sell a car—keep a set of keys—and still drive it whenever you wish! It was bought with a price!!!
10. You cannot be forgiven for your sin and then go back to your sin whenever you wish!
11. Live with NO regrets and NO excuses.
12. Don't let your salt lose its flavor!

QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

1. Why is it important to recognize that Y'shua is our High Priest?

- A. How might this explain why a heave offering made to Yahweh and given to Aaron is relevant to Christians today?

2. Numbers 18 describes some important attributes and regulations about the heave offering:

- A. What is the heave offering derived from?
- B. Why does Yahweh call it the "concreted part" of the overall tithe?
- C. Why might we consider the heave offering the best of the best?
- D. Compare the heave offering to the wave offering as it relates to Yahweh's rulership.

3. Numbers 18:19 teaches us that the ordinance of the heave offering is a "covenant of salt."

- A. What is the important symbolism about salt?
- B. How does this relate to Y'shua's words in Matthew 5:13-16?
- C. How does this relate to Abijah's words in II Chronicles 13:4-5?
- D. How might this relate to Nathan's words about David in II Samuel 7:13-16?

4. Yahweh expects us to give Him our best:

- A. Compare the heave offering in Numbers 18 to God's desired commitment of His people as taught by Paul in Romans 12:1-2.
- B. Contrast your answer with the warnings against the lukewarm church in Revelation 3:14-22.

5. You cannot sell your car to someone and keep the keys for yourself at the same time. Relate this statement to:

- A. Paul's words in Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:12-16; II Corinthians 5:17
- B. Psalms 103:12
- C. Peter's words in II Peter:1:9
- D. John's words in I John 3:9; I John 5:18

6. Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve: the gods of this world or Yahweh and His Son.

- A. Do you think you can offer God anything other than your absolute best? Explain!
- B. Do you think anything less than making your faith walk your top priority is acceptable? Explain!