

THE MYSTICAL AND THE STRAIGHTFORWARD



- Deut. 26 – 30 deals more with the mystical aspects of God and Torah
- The previous chapters deal with the more straightforward law
- ***Pshat*** = straightforward
- ***Remez*** = reading between the lines
- ***Drash*** = allegorical
- ***Sod*** = mystical

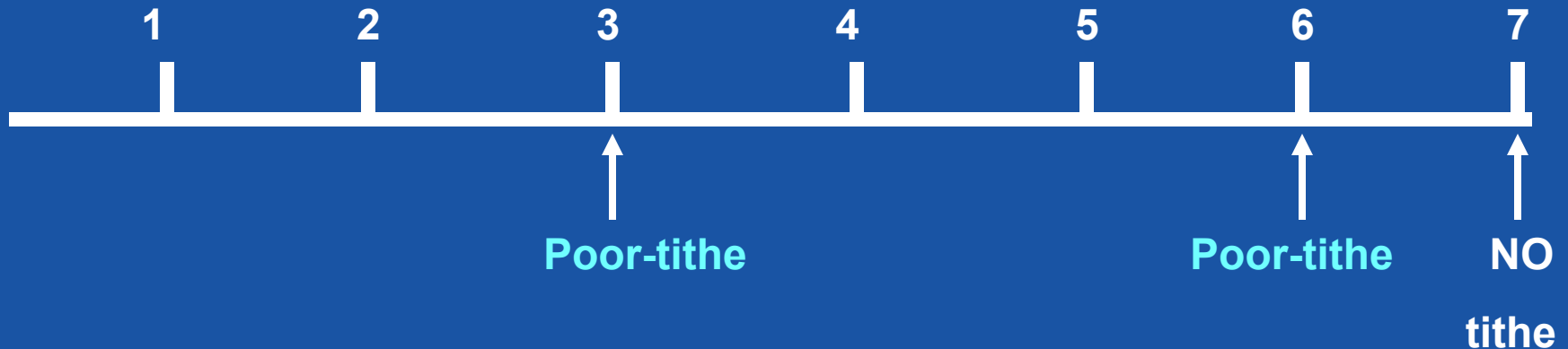
PRESENTING THE TITHE

- Torah indicates several types of giving all occurring simultaneously
- Each type occurred at a prescribed time
- The Messianic Believers of Paul's day were told to support them **AS WELL AS** all their other obligations



THE “POOR-TITHE”

THE SABBATICAL YEAR CYCLE



Every 3rd year the firstfruits were to be stored in the local village warehouse for use by the poor and needy

100 BC the High Priest John Hyrcannus abolished the poor-tithe so that everything went to the Temple and Priesthood

GOD'S HOLY PROPERTY

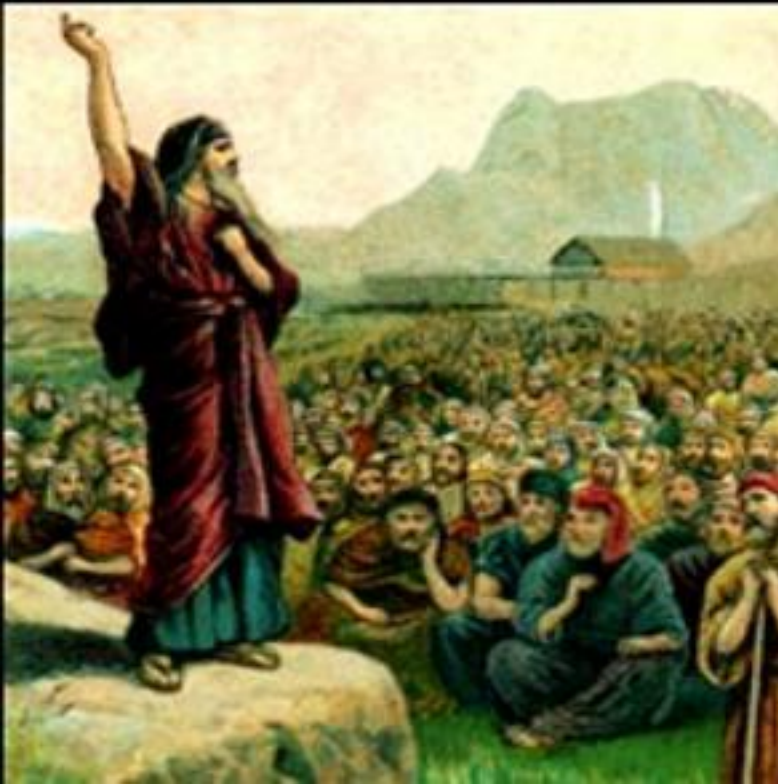
- Farmer makes a declaration to God that he has given ALL of the holy portion
- That which is set aside for God is His Holy Property
- Book of Acts: Ananias and Sapphira
- Vs. 14, worshipper declares he has properly handled the holy portion
- Usually the worshipper gave the holy portion to the Priest who checked it for conformity
- In the 3rd year the checks and balances were not there



3 WAYS THE HOLY PORTION COULD BE DEFILED

- 1) If some of the holy portion was eaten when the worshipper was in mourning
- 2) That the worshipper was not in some other kind of unclean (tamei) state when handling the holy portion
- 3) The worshipper had not given some of the holy portion to the dead
- The result of ancient superstitions about Ancestor Worship
- Holes above gravesites down to the body so food could be dropped down to the corpse for use in his afterlife

INDIVIDUAL VS. ALL ISRAEL

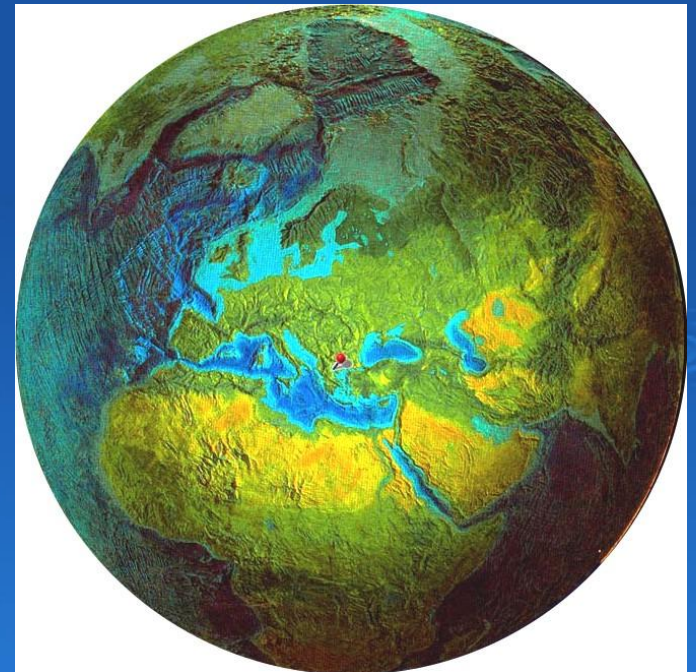


- Biblical Hebrew-ism focuses primarily on the nation as a whole
- Christianity focuses more on the individual
- Deut. 26 – 30 has more focus on individual than anywhere else in Torah
- Each person is to follow the commandments with ***“all of his heart and soul”***
- Not possible to separate faith from our human activities

GOD'S PRECIOUS TREASURE



- Verses 17 – 19 very powerful
- 1) mutual covenant between God and Israel IS established!
- 2) terms spelled out and accepted by both sides
- 3) Summary of terms is laid out
- Israel is to display BOTH an intellectual understanding and take ACTION!
- God says in return He will put Israel above every other nation on Earth
- Yehoveh has NOT abandoned Israel, and this is the proof that Yeshua will not abandon US!



OBEDIENCE DEMONSTRATES OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD

- In the Mosaic Covenant God is seeking a personal relationship with Israel
- Keeping His commandments IS the way He wants love demonstrated towards Him
- Keeping the commandments does NOT bring justification or establish our own righteousness
- BEFORE the Law was given, Israel was redeemed
- Redemption FIRST, then obedience

DEUTERONOMY 27: CEREMONIES WHEN ENTERING CANAAN



- Some scholars think that ancient Bible redactors have put some of Deut.27 out of order
- Literary criticism
- Ceremonies to happen at Mt. Ebal and Mt. Gerizim
- Vs. 1, only place in Torah where Elders join Moses in commanding the people
- Moses is about to die, is preparing the people for the transition

EBAL AND GERIZIM

- Israel to immediately erect stone markers
- Bible says they crossed over near Jericho
- Ebal 30 miles north of Jericho
- Stones to be plastered and the Sermon of Moses (Deuteronomy) inscribed in the plaster
- Israel familiar with this as it was the practice in Egypt
- Shechem was between Ebal and Gerizim



Ba'er Heitev: set it out well

- Words inscribed in plaster were to be easily understandable to all Israel
- Most cultures held the divine words of their gods in the province ONLY of their priests



WHEN SCRIPTURE IS FORGOTTEN



- The Inquisition was primarily about keeping the lay-church from having access to Scripture
- Goal of the church authority was to control the people
- Today “articles of faith” have supplanted Scripture study and understanding
- D.L. Christensen:
“...we need to find ways to expose our people to the WHOLE of the Bible...”