

# GLEANINGS

Article GE- 114

## JUST TELL ME WHAT GOD SAID

Before the people of the nation of Israel became a true theocracy, their form of government was an oligarchy. An oligarchy is a form of government in which the ruling power belongs to a few, elite people. The people's lives were controlled by a group of men called patriarchs. "<sup>8</sup>And he gave him the covenant of circumcision: and so Abraham begat Isaac, and circumcised him the eighth day; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat the twelve patriarchs". Acts 7:8 King James Version

Even after the people of the nation of Israel agreed their form of government would be a true theocracy (*Exodus 19:1 through 20:17*), they continued to retain a form of the patriarchal system. The people claimed that they were afraid to hear the direct commands and admonitions of the Lord so they requested that God speak to Moses and then Moses would tell their leaders (the patriarchs) what God said. Their leaders (the patriarchs) would tell them what Moses said. "*18 When the people witnessed the thunder and lightning, the trumpet blast and the mountain smoking, they all feared and trembled. So they took up a position much farther away 19 and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but let not God speak to us, or we shall die."* Exodus 20:18-19 *The New American Bible*

This excuse gave the people insulation so they did not have to listen to the direct commands of the Lord. It reminds us of what people are doing today. They insulate themselves from direct contact with the Lord by taking a position far away from Him and far away from His Divine Word, the Bible. Rather than studying the Bible thoroughly from cover to cover, they transfer that job to their minister or their priest. What if their minister or priest has not thoroughly studied the Bible from cover to cover? What if the understanding of the minister or priest is based upon what someone else told them God said or meant? You have the blind leading the blind!