

# Tithes and Offerings

**“Honor the LORD from your wealth**  
and from the first of all your produce;  
So your barns will be filled with plenty  
and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

**Tithe** in Hebrews means “tenth,” a portion set apart to give back to God according to His command. “A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.” (Leviticus 27:30)

**Three types** of Tithes: Levitical/sacred Tithes (Deuteronomy 14:22-23), Festival Tithes (Deuteronomy 12:17-19), Charity Tithes (Deuteronomy 14:28-29)

A **tithe** is 10% of your income that you give first, and an **offering** is anything extra that you give beyond that.

A **tithe** is an expression of the heart saying, “God, I love you more than wealth/money!”, and that we trust God even with 10% less. “We give God the first fruit, the best off the top, that we have set aside to give.”

**(First Example) Cain and Abel’s offering!** (Genesis 4:3-5)

# Tithing and Offerings in the OT!

- **Abraham** - “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> He blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” He gave him a tenth of all.” (Genesis 14:18-20)
- because Abraham obeyed me and did everything I required of him, keeping my commands, my decrees and my instructions. (Genesis 26:5)
- **Jacob** - “and this stone that I have set up as a pillar will be God’s house, and of all that you give me I will give you a tenth.” (Genesis 28:22)
- **God’s Command** – “Be sure to set aside a tenth of all that your fields produce each year. <sup>23</sup> Eat the tithe of your grain, new wine and olive oil, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks in the presence of the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name, so that you may learn to revere the LORD your God always.” (Deuteronomy 14:22-23)

# Tithing and Offerings in the NT!

- **What did Jesus think about Tithing?** “Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. (Matthew 23:23)
- **What overflows with the filling of the Holy Spirit?** “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. (Acts 2:42-45)
- **What does Paul say?**
  - Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written: **“They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.”** 2 Corinthians 9:6-9
  - This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> **and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.** First, the name Melchizedek means “king of righteousness”; then also, “king of Salem” means “king of peace.” <sup>3</sup> Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. (Hebrews 7:1-3)

# Why tithe and give offerings to God?

- I) **To Honor and Worship God with your wealth!** “Honor the LORD from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)
- **Titling is an act of faith!** “By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained the testimony that he was righteous, God testifying about his gifts, and **through faith, though he is dead, he still speaks...And without faith it is impossible to please Him**” Hebrews 11:4,6a)
- II) **To not rob God!**
- **“Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing Me!** But you say, ‘How have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing Me, the whole nation of you! (Malachi 3:8-9)
  - Thus all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD’S; it is holy to the LORD. (Leviticus 27:30)
- III) **To earnestly covet God’s blessings!**
- “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> **He blessed him** and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” He gave him a tenth of all.” (Genesis 14:18-20)

#### IV) To prosper and overflow by God's doing, not by your own striving!

- "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in My house, and test 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 a blessing until it overflows..."**<sup>12</sup> "All the nations will call you blessed, for you shall be a delightful land," says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 3:8-12)

#### V) To bring food to God's storehouse for His ministry workers! (Numbers 18:20-21)

- **"To the sons of Levi, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel for an inheritance**, in return for their service which they perform, the service of the tent of meeting." (Numbers 18:21)
- "Then the LORD said to Aaron, "You shall have no inheritance in their land nor own any portion among them; **I am your portion and your inheritance among the sons of Israel.**" (Numbers 18:20) "...a tithe of the tithe." (Numbers 18:26)
- "The priest, **the son of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes**, and the Levites shall bring up the tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the chambers of the storehouse.<sup>39</sup> For the sons of Israel and the sons of Levi shall bring the contribution of the grain, the new wine and the oil to the chambers; there are the utensils of the sanctuary, the priests who are ministering, the gatekeepers and the singers. Thus we will not neglect the house of our God. (Nehemiah 10:38-39)
- For it is written in the Law of Moses: **"Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain."** Is it about oxen that God is concerned? <sup>10</sup> Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest. (1 Corinthians 9:9-10)

## VI) To promote equality in the body of Christ!

- “Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, **but that there might be equality.** <sup>14</sup> At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, <sup>15</sup> as it is written: **“The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”** (2 Corinthians 8:13-15)

## VII) To not grieve the Holy Spirit through lack of generosity!

- “Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.” (Acts 2:43-45)
- “Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?” (Acts 5:3)

## VIII) To experience God and His supernatural provision!

- Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and **whoever sows generously will also reap generously.** <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, **for God loves a cheerful giver.** <sup>8</sup> And **God is able to bless you abundantly,** so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, **you will abound in every good work.** (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

## IX) To offer to God your best, from the firstfruits of your harvest!

- **“Bring the best of the firstfruits** of your soil to the house of the LORD your God. (Exodus 23:19)