

## Good Stewardship

Maximizing God's Blessings For His Glory

Lesson 1: What About Tithing?

### It's All About You and God

In reality the entire bible is about relationship. In particular, God's relationship with man, and man's relationship with God. The bible often refers to this relationship as a "covenant." It is important that we understand that a covenant is an agreement or contract between two or more individuals. Every covenant has at least two parts. In a covenant or contract there is always the part that explains the benefits of the agreement. In other words these are the things that will happen if the terms of the agreement are kept. Inversely, there is the part of the covenant or agreement that describes the penalties of the agreement if it is broken.

Generally speaking, most theologians agree that there are some seven different covenants in the bible. There is the "Adamic" or Edenic" covenants; ([Genesis 3:16-19](#)) which basically outlined Adam's responsibilities for maintaining the creation and God's warning concerning the tree of good and evil. The Noahic covenant ([2 Peter 2:5](#)); was between God and Noah specially and God and man in generally where God promises never to destroy the world by flood again. Then there is the Abrahamic covenant ([Genesis 12:1-3](#), [6-7](#); [13:14-17](#); [15](#); [17:1-14](#); [22:15-18](#)). In this covenant God promises to make Abraham's offspring a great nation and that the people of world would be blessed through the family of Abraham.

Other covenants in the bible include; Mosaic [Deuteronomy 11:26-28](#) details the blessing/cursing accounts demonstrated in the divinely ascribed laws governing the nation of Israel, the Davidic covenant ([2 Samuel 7:8-16](#)) which is basically an extension the Abrahamic covenant, the Palestine covenant ([Deuteronomy 30:1-10](#)). dealing with the distribution of land and finally the New Covenant ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). establishing the forgiveness of sin through the finished work of Jesus Christ. There are obviously some "covenants" that were for a specific person/people; and for a specific time that which may not directly impact us today. Then, there are others that speak in particular to our contemporary times. However, there are some covenants that are transcendent in nature. This is to say, they address those who lived before the Law of Moses, and those who lived during the Law of Moses and those who live today. These biblical covenants speaks to everyone, at every time and in every place. One example of such a covenant agreement is the covenant of "tithing."

### The Defining Character of Tithing (Mal. 3:10)

Mathematically speaking, the word "tithe" means a tenth; and speaks of the proportion of the gift God requires that we contribute to the work of the ministry. The limitation of time and space in this lesson will not allow us to expound beyond this reminder that the tithe is simply a starting point of our giving. God requires both "tithes and offerings." It must be understood that a person's offering may well, and often should exceed their tithing. Let's start by examining this key verse of scripture:

#### Mal 3:10

(v.10) "Bring ye all the tithes. This is a **DEFINITE PROPORTION**. Meaning God is not asking us to give equally, but tithing is simply equal sacrifice. **QUESTION:** What about the person who says, "I just can't afford to tithe!" It has been said that the acronym for the word "DEBT" is "Did Everything But Tithe." Certainly, God would not require you to do that which he knew was impossible for you to do. Oddly, we will not march on Washington to protest what the IRS requires from every one of our paychecks; but we will debate God's word.

(v.10) into the storehouse” This tells me that tithing is to come to a DEFINITE PLACE. READ Neh 10: 37 – 38. The people were instructed to bring their tithe (10%) to the temple and the priests were to allocate these funds to support all necessary ministry efforts. **QUESTION:** What about those who would say they give charitably to Cancer Research, or Big Brothers Big Sisters, or that they financially support their grandchildren? Although all these donations may be honorable; they do not replace God’s directives to tithe to a DEFINITE PLACE. (v. 10) that there may be meat in mine house, This is a DEFINITE PURPOSE. The tithe is God’s method of securing a blessing for both those who gave and for those who will receive the benefit of the giving. You cannot chose to use your tithe as you see fit... if you do; it’s no longer a tithe it’s a charitable contribution.

### **The Components of Tithing**

**(1) DECISION** (GENESIS 14:18 – 24 ) prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, **QUESTION:** In Mal 10:3, does God require that we employ faith in order to tithe?

**(2) THE VISION** (GENESIS 15:1) if I will not open you the windows of heaven, Tithing turns on the lights from heaven allowing us to see that which has been set before us. **QUESTION:** In Gen 15:1, what was the writer referring to when he states “after these things...?” - what connection does the literary transition have with the subject of our lesson? **(3) PROVISION** (HEBREWS 7: 7 – 10) and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (KJV) **QUESTION:** This clause promises to pour me out a blessing that I can’t receive. But why would I be excited about a blessing I can’t receive? Read Heb. 7: 7 – 10 again.

### **Common Myths About Tithing**

**(1) Tithing Is About Churches Raising Money.** **READ:** Hag. 2:8, Ps. 24:1, Deut. 8:18. All of these scriptures establish the fact that God is not broke! Tithing is not about raising money, it’s about raising Christians. Tithing teaches discipline, obedience and commitment. All of which are necessary attributes of any successful person.

**(2) Tithing Is Under the Law.** This argument saysthat tithing was a part of the Law of Moses and we are no longer subject to those laws. Tithing was practiced before Moses (Gen. 14: 18 – 20, 28: 20 – 22) Tithing was practiced during the law. (Deut 12: 5 – 6) and tithing was practice after the law (Matt. 23:23) Abraham commenced it, Moses continued it, Jesus commended it – who are you to cancel it?

### **Did You Know The Bible Clearly Teaches Us To Pay Our Tithes To Jesus Christ? READ Heb 7: 1 – 4**

This scripture in Hebrews reiterates the narrative in Genesis chapter 14. There Abram is conducting a triumphant march back home after winning a tremendous battle over several ruling kings. During this victorious procession, Abram encounters a mysterious priest named Melchisedec. This priest comes bearing bread and wine and pronounces a blessing over Abram. In response Abram pays tithes to Melchisedec from the spoils he have recently acquired during battle. **QUESTIONS:** We know that the lineage of the priesthood didn’t begin until the times of Moses and his brother Aaron; so where did this priest come from? Furthermore, how does the Hebrew author describe this Melchisedec? Given those attributes and characteristics, who does this priest sound like? – Bishop Waddell