

# TITHING

In no way shape or form do I believe that Word teaches that “Tithing” is the **required** basis of giving for New Testament Gentile believers.

This is best verified by diligently going through the various Covenants which God had with his people and addressing the sacrifices, firstfruit offerings and tithing that occurred.

## 1. The Adamic Covenant (from the Fall to the Flood)

Gen 3:15 God promised a seed who would crush the serpents head

Gen 3:21 God sacrificed an animal to cover Adam and Eve’s nakedness

Gen 4:4 Abel offered a sacrifice of the **fat portions of some of the firstborn** of his flock ...this is clearly not a tithe. It was accepted because it was the best of the firstborn of his flock which was later reserved for burnt offerings ..it also speaks prophetically of Christs sacrifice.

Cain’s sacrifice of ‘some of the fruits of the soil’ was probably rejected as a mediocre sacrifice and of the work of his hands

It should be noted that there was no tithing mentioned at all and there was no priesthood to whom it might have been given

## 2. The Noahic Covenant (from the Flood to the call of Abram)

Gen 8:20 Noah built an altar and taking clean animals and birds sacrificed burnt offerings on it

Gen 8:21-22 God was pleased and covenanted a blessing of ‘seed time and harvest’

Gen 9:8-17 God covenanted a promise of no future worldwide flood and provided the rainbow as a sign

It should be noted that there was no tithing mentioned at all and there was no priesthood to whom it might have been given

3. **The Abrahamic Covenant** (from the call of Abram to the giving of the Law)

Sacrifices

- Gen 13:4 Abram made an altar and (presumably) offered a sacrifice on it
- Gen 22 God tested Abram and he was prepared to obey God even to the extent of sacrificing his only son
- vs 8 'God himself will provide the lamb' – this speaks prophetically of God providing his son Jesus Christ as our sacrifice

The Tithe (FIRST MENTIONED)

Gen 14:11-24 Abrams nephew Lot was carried off and his possessions along with the goods of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah

Abram rescued Lot and was blessed by Melchizedek on his return

Abram gave him a tenth of everything

NOTE As Abram was on a war/rescue mission he did not have any of his own wealth with him. Hebrews 7:5 makes it clear that all he gave was a tenth of the **PLUNDER**. He therefore **gave only of that which was not his own** and returned the rest to Lot and those it was stolen from!

NOTE It is not recorded that Abram/Abraham ever 'tithed' or 'gave a tenth' again

THIS CANNOT LEGITIMATELY BE ARGUED TO CONSTITUTE A PRE-MOSAIC SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE OR TITHING AS IT IS TAUGHT IN THE CHURCH TODAY

Gen 29:20-22 Jacobs Vow..... 'If God will be with me and will watch over me....then the Lord will be my God....and I will give you a tenth'

NOTE God bless me first and then I will give!

NOTE As there was no priest mentioned the tenth was probably given to the poor and sacrificed to God and eaten by Jacob and his extended family as per Deut 14:22-27

THIS again CANNOT LEGITIMATELY BE ARGUED TO CONSTITUTE A PRE-MOSAIC SPIRITUAL PRINCIPLE AND IT IS NOT RECORDED THAT THIS WAS EVER DONE AGAIN (IE AS A VOW)

4. **The Mosaic Covenant** (from the giving of the Law to the death of Jesus)

Sacrifices (Hebrews 10:8-14 Christ's sacrifice has once and for all set aside all sacrifices)

Leviticus and Deuteronomy - Numerous types of offerings including Firstfruits offerings were to be offered at the annual feasts (Lev 2:12 and Exodus 23:16 – Firstfruits is clearly NOT A TITHE)

Tithes (Hebrews 7:5 ....'Now the **LAW** requires the descendants of Levi.....to collect a tenth from the people' (Not a pre-mosaic spiritual principle)

The LAW refers the Mosaic Law which was given by God to Moses at Mt Sinai and was recorded in the Books of the Law (TORAH) by which all Jews (including Jesus) lived and still do today

Lev 27:30 '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

NOTE What is to be done with it is spelt out later in Deut 14:22-26

Num 18:21 'I give to the Levites all the tithes (as later detailed for Deut 14 and 26) as their inheritance in return for the work they do while serving....'

NOTE The tribe of Levi had no **land** given to them and therefore no means of income.

NOTE As detailed in Deut 14 and 26 ALL the tithe in the third year was given to Levites (and the widow and orphans and aliens). This equated to 10% divided by 3 (ie every third year) = **3.34% per year!**  
Levi had 22,000 people out of 603,000 total Israelites = **3.68%**  
(Num 1:32 and Num 3:39)

NOTE Today as New Testament believers **WE ARE ALL PRIESTS**  
(1 Pet 2:5 and 2:9 and Rev 1:6, 5:10 and 20:6)

Deut 12 :5-12 (bring your burnt offerings, sacrifices, tithes etc .....)  
Vs 7 there in the presence of the Lord your God **you and your family shall eat and rejoice** ...because the Lord your God has blessed you

Deut 14:22 Be sure to set aside a tenth of **all that your fields produce** each year

NOTE The tithe always **specifically referred to produce of the fields only**  
No reference is given to tithes being required from Israelites that had other occupations ie workmen, skilled craftsmen, weavers, designers, or carpenters (or being Jews – merchants, bankers, and lawyers or doctors) under the LAW

Deut 14:23-26 **Eat the tithe** of your grain, new wine, oil...in the presence of the Lord your God at the place He will choose

NOTE This was to celebrate religious feasts as a spiritual family and community holiday (ie Passover, Weeks and Tabernacles)

Deut 14:27-29 .....**At the end of every THREE years bring all that years produce and STORE** it (does this remind you of the **storehouse** in Mal 3:10?) in the towns so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the aliens the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands

NOTE Only on the **THIRD YEAR** was the tithe brought to the store (house) in the city

Deut 26-1-11 ...(vs2) take **some** of the **firstfruits** of all that you **produce from the soil** ...and put them in a **basket**...(vs11) and you and the Levites, and aliens shall rejoice in all the good things (ie EAT) that the Lord your God has given you

NOTE Firstfruits are clearly not tithes ...ie a **basket** which contains some of the firstfruits (See also Lev 2:12) (this can be verified in a bible dictionary)

Deut 26:12 When you have finished setting aside a tenth **of all your produce in the third year, THE YEAR OF THE TITHE** you shall give it to the Levite, the alien, the fatherless and the widow so that they may eat in your towns and be satisfied (This was done by bringing it to the **STORE** in the towns...the storehouse of Mal 3:10)

NOTE Firstfruits were the first part of the produce ....Tithes were not the first as they were **set aside through the year**

NOTE The third year was called **THE YEAR OF THE TITHE** for a reason (In that year **ONLY** was it given to the Levites as per Num 18:21)

Deut 26:13 then say to the Lord ‘ I have removed from my house the **Sacred Portion** and have given it to the Levite the alien, the fatherless and the widow **as you have commanded me**’ (*ie from the third years produce only*)

Note This ties up with Mal 3:8 as to having robbed God by not obeying this command. Ie **GOD had given the Sacred Portion to the Levites .....therefore by not giving it in the THIRD YEAR they robbed God!**

Deut 26:15 'Look down from heaven, your holy dwelling place, and bless your people and the land you have given us.....a land flowing with milk and honey

Note This aligns with Mal 3:12 'open the heavens and pouring out a blessing'

FURTHER REFERENCES TO TITHING IN 2 CHRONICLES AND NEHEMIAH ARE NOT ADDRESSED IN DETAIL AS THESE WERE MERELY PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF THE LAW AND DID NOT AMEND THE LAW AS ADDRESSED ABOVE

**Mal 3:8-12** This scripture, because of its current and frequent 'out of context' use, can best be described as '**the sledgehammer to cause fear, guilt, condemnation and confusion**' for Christians today

Note Malachi was an OLD TESTAMENT prophet. Prophets pointed Israel back to THE LAW (read Mal 2 if you don't believe me)...God did not use prophets to re-write the Law!

Note **We cannot be cursed today as born again believers for disobeying the LAW**

Gal 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us as it is written 'Cursed is anyone who is hung on a tree'

Note As New Testament believers we receive the blessings by faith in the completed work of Christ and not by works of the Law (Eph 1:3 and Gal 3:1-14.....a must read)

Note I say 'out of context' use as scripture must be used to interpret scripture and 'in the mouth of two witnesses or three let every word be CONFIRMED' ..... doctrines should not be based on one scripture only (ie Malachi 3:8-12 and ignore the **LAW** as detailed in Deuteronomy 14 and 26)

Mal 3:8 Will a man rob God? You ask how have we robbed you? ..... ie God had set out the law in Deut 14 and 26 which they were not obeying by not giving the Sacred Portion, ie the third years tithe, to the Levites

Mal 3:9 You are under a curse.... ie Deut 28:1-14 were the blessings for obedience but Deut 28:15-68 were the curses Israel put themselves under by disobedience

Note We are not under the Law today ..... see Romans 7:6 'We have been released from the Law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit not under the old ways of the written code'

Mal 3:10 'Bring the **whole tithe** (as per Deut 14 and 26 this clearly means the whole of the **THIRD YEARS TITHE ie the Sacred Portion**) into the **storehouse** that there may be food in my house'

Note The explanation of the 'storehouse' is clearly related to storing the food in the cities for the Levites, aliens, widows and fatherless and never was the local synagogue

Mal 3:12 **Then all the nations will call you blessed**...ie as per the promises of Deut 28:1-14

### **TITHING WAS GODS WAY UNDER THE LAW THAT THE PRIESTS AND THE POOR OF THE NATION WOULD BE SUPPORTED**

#### **TODAY AS GENTILE BELIEVERS WE ARE NOT UNDER THE LAW**

Hebrews 7:5 'Now the **LAW** requires the descendants of Levi.....to collect **a** tenth from the people'

Romans 3:19 'Now we know that whatever the law says it says to those who are under the **LAW** ....' Oh that this would be taught today!

Romans 7:6 'We have been released from the **LAW** so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit not under the old ways of the written code'

Acts 15:5 ...the Pharisees stood up and said 'The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the **Law of Moses**'

Acts 15:28 But the apostles, elders and **Holy Spirit** said.....

'It seemed good to the **Holy Spirit** and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following **requirements**: that you abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meat strangled and from sexual immorality'

#### **NOTE TITHING WAS NOT MENTIONED**

This explains why Paul and the apostles never taught tithing to the gentile churches.....they would not even have known of such practices

#### **....THEY WERE TAUGHT TO GIVE WITH A GENEROUS HEART AS LED BY THE SPIRIT**

(see the next section)

## **HISTORY**

It is important to note that the majority of Christians in the world today either do not worship in churches that preach Tithing or do not practice tithing even if their churches preach it

As far as I can identify Tithing was not a practice in the church until almost 800AD

This would mean that **Tithing was not part of the Apostolic Doctrine** or practiced by the early church (which would explain why it was not taught to the Gentile Church)

(according to preaching that we have all probably heard we would therefore have to conclude that they have all robbed God and, at the worst, would be on their way to Hell as that is the destiny of all thieves, or at the best, would never have experienced the blessing of God as they are disobedient)

The early Jewish church did practice having all things in common (Acts 2:44-45) but this was never practiced by the Gentile Church and is rarely practiced today

**Note** There are claims that multiple tithes were paid ie as taxes to the temple, the Romans, the king, etc but under the LAW only one tithe was ever required. While civil authorities may also have collected taxes (much as is done today) this had no relevance to the LAW of God as set out in the OLD TESTAMENT