

What does the Bible teach concerning tithe?

By Adam Mills

TITHE BEFORE THE MOSAIC DISPENSATION

Genesis 14:18-20

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he [was] the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed [be] Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him TITHES OF ALL.

[NOT MERELY CROPS AND CATTLE]

Genesis 28:22

And this stone, which I [Jacob] have set [for] a pillar, shall be God's house: and OF ALL THAT THOU SHALT GIVE ME I will surely give THE TENTH unto thee.

[AGAIN, NO LIMITATIONS AS TO CROPS/CATTLE]

TITHE DURING THE MOSAIC DISPENSATION

Numbers 18:21

And, behold, I have given the children of Levi ALL THE TENTH IN ISRAEL for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, [even] the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

Deuteronomy 14:22

Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

verses 28,29

At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth ALL THE TITHE OF THINE INCREASE the same year, and shalt lay [it] up within thy gates: And the Levite, (because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which [are] within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in ALL THE WORK OF THINE HAND which thou doest.

[note: This was a separate additional tithe from the first tithe which was dedicated exclusively to the Levites. SEE Num. 18:21 above]

2 Chronicles 31:5

And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; AND THE TITHE OF ALL [things] brought they in abundantly.

[ONCE AGAIN WE SEE THAT TITHE WAS NOT LIMITED TO ANY SPECIFIC ARTICLES]

Proverbs 3:9

Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits OF ALL THINE INCREASE:

Luke 18:12

I fast twice in the week, I give TITHES OF ALL THAT I POSSESS.

TITHE SINCE THE MOSAIC DISPENSATION

1 Corinthians 9:13,14

Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live [of the things] of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? EVEN SO HATH THE LORD ORDAINED that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

[Here we have probably the clearest text of all on the subject demonstrating that tithing was not somehow abolished under the new covenant. Paul refers to it as something which the Corinthian believers should already be aware of "Do ye not know...?". It is emphatically stated by Paul that the very same system which provided support for the Levites and priests, God has ordained should also provide sustenance for the gospel ministers.]

Hebrews 7:1-11

For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; ABIDETH A PRIEST CONTINUALLY. Now consider how great this man [was], unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he [receiveth them], of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him. If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need [was there] that ANOTHER PRIEST SHOULD RISE AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHISEDEC, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

[Here we see clearly presented that as tithe was returned to Melchisedec BEFORE the Mosaic dispensation, it is also to be returned to Christ in the person of His ministers who minister on Christ's behalf. Christ is our High priest after the same order of Melchisedec CONTINUALLY. Thus tithing is present in scripture under BOTH the Melchisedec and Levitical orders.]

Dear reader, do not seek to avoid the test of your faith in tithing and offering and brave the curse of God. God tries the hearts of all who profess to love and serve Him. All who have tried Him have tasted and proven that the Lord is indeed faithful! If you are wondering why you have seemed to be without the blessing of God, examine your heart and your faithfulness to God in returning tithe AND offerings as you are able for the Master has said "where your treasure is there will your heart be also" Matt. 6:21. Realize that God can scatter much faster than we can gather:

Haggai 1:9

Ye looked for much, and, lo, [it came] to little; and when ye brought [it] home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that [is] waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.