

# **Do We Have to Tithe?**

**(Follow-up on past  
messages is first)**



## **Follow up from previous discussions Abraham and Sarah**

Abraham lived to be 175 years old. He was 100 years old when Isaac was born.

Genesis 25:7-8

**And these are the days of the years of Abraham's life which he lived, an hundred threescore and fifteen years.** Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Sarah, Abraham's wife lived to be 127 years old. She was 90 years old when Isaac was born.

Genesis 23:1-2

**And Sarah was an hundred and seven and twenty years old:** these were the years of the life of Sarah. And Sarah died in Kirjatharba; the same is Hebron in the land of Canaan: and Abraham came to mourn for Sarah, and to weep for her.

## More on Noah's Ark

Most of us know that God told Noah to take 2, a male and a female, of every animal on the ark. What many of us don't know is that God told Noah to take 7 pairs (the male and the female) or 14 of the clean animals.

It is not until the Law was given to Moses that we get a definition for a clean animal.

### Deuteronomy 14:6-7

**And every beast that parteth the hoof, and cleaveth the cleft into two claws, and cheweth the cud among the beasts, that ye shall eat. Nevertheless these ye shall not eat of them that chew the cud, or of them that divide the cloven hoof; as the camel, and the hare, and the coney: for they chew the cud, but divide not the hoof; therefore they are unclean unto you.**

The reason for the 7 pairs of clean animals instead of 1 pair of the other animals is not listed in the next verses.

### Genesis 7:1-3

And the LORD said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation. **Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.** Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

Later on in Genesis, it becomes obvious that Noah needed more of the clean animals. He offered sacrifices of clean animals to God upon their safe delivery.

### Genesis 8:14-16, 20-21

And in the second month, on the seven and twentieth day of the month, was the earth dried. And God spake unto Noah, saying, Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee.

**<sup>20</sup>And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.** And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the

LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

**Unbelievers cannot understand  
the word of God.**

1 Corinthians 2:9-14

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man**

**receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.**

Solomon tells us that the bodies all living things return to dust when we die, and their spirits return to God. God's spirit, the breath of life that is found in every living thing, always returns to God when a living thing dies.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

God possesses the soul of every *living thing*. Job also tells us that God possesses the spirit by which man takes every breath.

Job 12:10

In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

The soul of *a person* is a different story. Every believers' soul returns to God along with his spirit. Unbelievers' souls are separated from

God's spirit (by which they take every breath while they are living) by the word of God upon their deaths. The spirit returns to God, but their souls go to hell.

Hebrew 4:12

**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**



## Do We Have to Tithe?

When God gave Moses the Law for Israel, He included a way for the people to support the tribe of Levi, the tribe from which the priests came.

God separated out the tribe of Levi to be His priests forever. The Levites were to live in the cities of Israel. The rest of the twelve tribes were given land on which to grow crops and raise animals for food.

### Joshua 13:1, 14

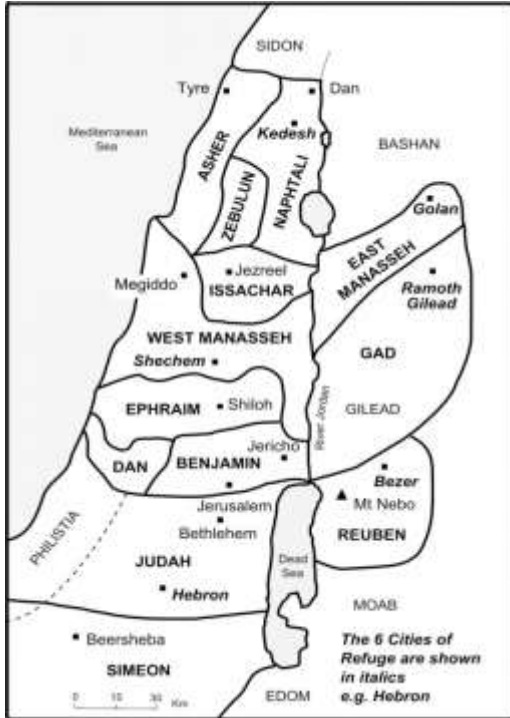
<sup>1</sup>Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.

<sup>14</sup> **Only unto the tribe of Levi he gave none inheritance; the sacrifices of the LORD God of Israel made by fire are their inheritance, as he said unto them.**

### Joshua 14:4

**For the children of Joseph were two tribes, Manasseh and Ephraim: therefore they gave no**

part unto the Levites in the land, save cities to dwell in, with their suburbs for their cattle and for their substance.



There were three tithes (10%) for Israel, required by Law. The first of the tithes was to support the tribe of Levi, because they had no land to raise crops or animals. God said that the Levites were His, so everything that is holy to the Lord went to the Levites.

### Leviticus 27:30

**And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD.**

To determine 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the animals, the animals were literally walked under a rod. The rod would come down on every 10<sup>th</sup> animal and it would be the Lord's. It didn't matter what shape the animal was in, it was the tithe. If anyone tried to "select" any animal but the 10th, both the 10<sup>th</sup> animal and the one that was selected by a "switch" would be the tithe.

### Leviticus 27:32-33

**And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD. He shall not search whether it be good or bad, neither shall he change it: and if he change it at all, then both it and the change thereof shall be holy; it shall not be redeemed.**

1/10<sup>th</sup> of all of that the land produced belonged to God and the Levites were His.

### Numbers 8:14

Thus shalt thou separate the Levites from among the children of Israel: and **the Levites shall be mine.**

The Levites, in turn, were also required to tithe (give 1/10<sup>th</sup>) to the Lord. This was the tithe, the Lord's portion, that was given to the priests.

### Numbers 18:26-28

Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, **When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe.** And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress. **Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.**

God was specific about what His portion that the Levites were required to give to the priests.

### Deuteronomy 18:3-5

**And this shall be the priest's due from the people, from them that offer a sacrifice, whether it be ox or sheep; and they shall give unto the priest the shoulder, and the two cheeks, and the maw. The firstfruit also of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him.** For the LORD thy God hath chosen him out of all thy tribes, to stand to minister in the name of the LORD, him and his sons for ever.

Instructions to the priests:

### Numbers 18:9-12

This shall be thine of the most holy things, reserved from the fire: **every oblation of theirs, every meat offering of theirs, and every sin offering of theirs, and every trespass offering of theirs, which they shall render unto me,** shall be most holy for thee and for thy sons. In the most holy place shalt thou eat it; **every male shall eat it: it shall be holy unto thee. And this is thine; the heave offering of their gift, with all the wave offerings of the children of Israel: I have given them unto thee, and to thy sons and to thy**

daughters with thee, by a statute for ever: **every one that is clean in thy house shall eat of it. All the best of the oil, and all the best of the wine, and of the wheat, the firstfruits of them which they shall offer unto the LORD,** them have I given thee.

The book of Malachi, that some churches use to convince their members to tithe, was actually written to the priests who were not bringing their tithes into the storehouse as the Law required. We can only imagine they were using them to their own gain, and not obeying the Law. God said He wanted there to be food in His House, which is the Temple.

### Malachi 2:1

And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you.

Many of you may have heard the following passage in a sermon on tithing at church. God told the priests that they would receive more blessings than their storehouse could hold if they would obey Him.

Malachi 3:8-10

**Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.** Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house,** and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and **pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.**

The second tithe required was set aside to be eaten by the tither and his family at a place of God's choosing. This food was to be used to feed the tither and his household when they traveled to the feasts required by Law each year.

Exodus 23:14-17

**Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year. Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread:** (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:) **And the feast of harvest, the**

**firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field. Three times in the year all thy males shall appear before the Lord GOD.**

This tithe was  $1/10^{\text{th}}$  of the *increase* of the produce of the land.

Deuteronomy 14:22

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

God gave specific instructions that the people were not to eat the tithe at home (within their gates.)

Deuteronomy 12:17

**Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand:**

It was to be eaten at a place of God's choosing.



### Deuteronomy 14:23

And **thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks;** that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always.

This second tithe needed to be transported. If it was a long distance for the person to travel, he could sell the tithe and take the money to the place of God's choosing. There, he could buy whatever he wanted to buy, no restrictions, even "strong drink." He and his household could enjoy themselves, much like a vacation!

### Deuteronomy 14:24-26

And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: And **thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for**

**oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household,**

But the people were always supposed to remember to provide for the Levites, the tribe of the priests.

Deuteronomy 14:27

**And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee.**

The third tithe was required every three years. It was a “welfare” tithe to the poor and Levite. This tithe was to be eaten at the tither’s home “within thy gates.”

Deuteronomy 14:28-29

**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.

God made other provisions for the poor in His Law. Anyone who grew crops of any kind was never to harvest the corners of the field or collect every last grain or grape. They were to leave crops for the poor to gather and use for their food.

Leviticus 19:9-10

**And when ye reap the harvest of your land, thou shalt not wholly reap the corners of thy field, neither shalt thou gather the gleanings of thy harvest. And thou shalt not glean thy vineyard, neither shalt thou gather every grape of thy vineyard; thou shalt leave them for the poor and stranger: I am the LORD your God.**

## Do We Have to Tithe?

The short answer is “No, we couldn’t tithe according to God’s Law, even if we wanted to” Tithing was in God’s Law for Israel and it was all about providing food for people to eat. It supported the Levitical priesthood, allowed people to follow the Law by traveling to Jerusalem 3 times a year for feasts required by God, and fed the poor and needy in Israel.

Today, some churches, concerned about mortgages or salaries or other expenses, try to mold tithing into something that is required of us. It is not for us.

Here is what Paul tells us about giving. You may have heard some of these passages before. Paul tells us that someone who will not work, should not eat.

### 2 Thessalonians 3:10

For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that **if any would not work, neither should he eat.**

Paul tells Timothy that believers show their faith by providing for others, especially their own families, before anything else.

1 Timothy 5:8

**But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.**

Paul knew that we can get tired of hearing about others in need, but he tells us not to get weary, we will reap what we sew. “God loveth a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

But this I say, **He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: **for God loveth a cheerful giver.**

Paul also tells the Galatians not to get weary in helping others, for we will reap what we sew. We should especially care for those who are

fellow members of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Galatians 6:9-10

And let us not be weary in well doing: **for in due season we shall reap**, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.**

Widows are specifically mentioned. Families should take care of their widows so the church can focus on “widows indeed.”

1 Timothy 5:3, 16

<sup>3</sup>**Honour widows that are widows indeed.**

<sup>16</sup>If any man or woman that believeth have widows, let them relieve them, and **let not the church be charged; that it may relieve them that are widows indeed.**

This admonition extends to the nieces and nephews.

1 Timothy 5:4

**But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents:** for that is good and acceptable before God.

Paul defines a “widow indeed.” She is a believer without any means of support, desolate. She is at least 60 years old, having been married to one man, with a history of service in the church.

1 Timothy 5:5. 9-10

**<sup>5</sup>Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God,** and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day.

**<sup>9</sup>Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man,** Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.