

CIRCLE OF TITHE

Thanksgiving became the tithe.

Gen. 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: 20 And blessed be the most high God which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all. (For more information on Melchizedek see Heb. 7)

1. **Did Abraham set the example of the tithe before or after the law was given?**
2. **Why did Abraham give a tithe to Melchizedek?**
3. **Thanksgiving - delivered thine enemies Gen. 14:20**
4. **Relationship - blessed him Heb. 7:6**
5. **Melchizedek was a precursor to the promise Heb 7:23 – 28**

Tithing became law

Lev 27:30 (NKJV)

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 to the LORD.

It all belongs to God

Num 18:21-26 (NKJV)

21 "Behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for the work which they perform, the work of the tabernacle of meeting. **22** Hereafter the children of Israel shall not come near the tabernacle of meeting, lest they bear sin and die. **23** But the Levites shall perform the work of the tabernacle of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; *it shall be* a statute forever, throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. **24** For the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer up *as* a heave offering to the LORD, I have given to the Levites as an inheritance; therefore I have said to them, 'Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.' " **25** Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, **26** "Speak thus to the Levites, and say to them: 'When you take from the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them as your inheritance, then you shall offer up a heave offering of it to the LORD, a tenth of the tithe.

Given by God to the Levites as an inheritance

1. **Because they did not receive any land**
2. **Is tithe needed for this reason today?**
3. **Does the possibility that the Levites no longer need change who it Belonged to originally?**
4. **Who has God gives it to today?**

Where do we take the tithe?

Deut 12:5-6 (NKJV)

5 But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. **6** There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.

Deut 14:22-29 (NKJV)

22 "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year. **23** And you shall eat before the LORD your God, in the place where He chooses to make His name abide, the tithe of your grain and your new wine and your oil, of the firstborn of your herds and your flocks, that you may learn to fear the LORD your God always. **24** But if the journey is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry *the tithe*, or if the place where the LORD your God chooses to put His name is too far from you, when the LORD your God has blessed you, **25** then you shall exchange *it* for money, take the money in your hand, and go to the place which the LORD your God chooses. **26** And you shall spend that money for whatever your heart desires: for oxen or sheep, for wine or similar drink, for whatever your heart desires; you shall eat there before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your household. **27** **You shall not forsake the Levite who is within your gates, for he has no part nor inheritance with you.** **28** "At the end of *every* third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store *it* up within your gates. **29** And the Levite, because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who *are* within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do.

1. What do we tithe?(. 22)
2. Does the tithe need to be paid in grain and livestock?
3. Who should we not forget?
4. What would cause us to forget?

2 Chron 31:5-10 (NKJV)

5 As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. **6** And the children of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the LORD their God they laid in heaps. **7** In the third month they began laying them in heaps, and they finished in the seventh month. **8** And when Hezekiah and the leaders came and saw the heaps, they blessed the LORD and His people Israel. **9** Then Hezekiah questioned the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. **10** And Azariah the chief priest, from the house of Zadok, answered him and said, "Since *the people* began to bring the offerings into the house of the LORD, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for the LORD has blessed His people; and what is left *is* this great abundance."

5. What happens when everyone is obedient?

Neh 10:38 (NKJV)

And the priest, the descendant of Aaron, shall be with the Levites when the Levites receive tithes; and the Levites shall bring up a tenth of the tithes to the house of our God, to the rooms of the storehouse.

Do preachers need to tithe?

Neh 13:10-12 (NKJV)

10 I also realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given *them*; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field. **11** So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" And I gathered them together and set them in their place. **12** Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse.

6. What else is it used for?

Mal 3:8-12 (NKJV)

8 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. **9** You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. **10** Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try 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 *such* blessing That *there will not be room enough to receive it*. **11** "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, So that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground, Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field," Says the LORD of hosts; **12** "And all nations will call you blessed, For you will be a delightful land," Says the LORD of hosts.

7. To withhold the tithe is to be _____

8. What blessing comes with obedience?

9. What exception to the law is tied to the tithe? Deu 6:16 Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah.

Matt 23:23 (NKJV)

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier *matters* of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.

Tithe is an elementary principle in the Bible, not as important as justice, mercy, and faith, but should not be left "undone". Tithing may be part of the "milk" of the word, so basic that we should be practicing it and moving on to the more important things, but we are like the Corinthians - 1 Cor 3:2

The law became fulfilled

Matt 5:17 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.

Rom 10:4

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

2 Cor 9:7-8 (NKJV)

7 So let each one *give* as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. **8** And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may have an abundance for every good work.

Tithing came back to being thanksgiving

How thankful are you?

Gratitude is more than a feeling, gratitude takes effort. We can choose to be thankful for what God has given us, or we can choose to be ungrateful.

What will you choose to do?