

Tithes

Genesis 14:18-20 (NIV)

Let Us Talk

- When was the tithe first mentioned in scripture?
- Who was the first tither?
- Which priesthood do we tithe under?
- Does God love a non-tither?
- How many tithing systems are identified in scripture?
- Do we acknowledge the greatness of God through tithing? How?
- Do we get in close contact with Jesus firsthand when we commune and tithe? How?

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,

19 and he blessed Abram, saying,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And praise be to God Most High,
who delivered your enemies into your hand.”
Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

- What is a tenth?

Ten percent of what we have.

Genesis 14:20b (NIV)

Then Abram gave him a **tenth** of everything.

- Do we tithe upwards, downwards or to self?

Upwards.

☐ Genesis 14:20b (NIV)

20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave **him** a tenth of everything.

- Should tithing occur only within the four walls of a fellowship building?

No.

The Abraham and Melchizedek encounter did not take place within the four walls of a fellowship building.

Genesis 14:20b (NIV)

20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.” Then Abram gave **him** a tenth of everything.

- The King of Righteousness

¹ For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him,

² to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated “king of righteousness,” and then also king of Salem, meaning “king of peace,”

³ without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually.

⁴ Now consider how great this man *was*, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils.

Noteworthy

- The King of Righteousness / King of Peace (Melchizedek King of Salem) is Jesus Christ and He lives forever. **Vs 1-3**
- His Priesthood is everlasting. **Vs 3**
- Abraham tithed to someone greater. **Vs 4**

⁵ And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham;

⁶ but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.

⁷ Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better.

Noteworthy

- Tithing under the Levitical Priesthood is a form of tithing. **Vs 5**
- The Levitical Priesthood is under the law, therefore tithing under the law is one type of tithing method. **Vs 5**
- The Melchizedek Priesthood is another method of tithing, yet it is **not** under the law. **Vs 6**
- When it comes to tithing, we tithe upwards because the lesser is blessed by the better. **Vs 7**

NIV

⁸ Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he *receives them*, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.

⁹ Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak,

¹⁰ for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.

- Read Numbers 18:19-29 (entire chapter preferably), to learn more about the duties of the Levitical priesthood and tithing.

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⁸ Furthermore, **here** [in the Levitical priesthood] tithes are received by men who are subject to death; while **there** [in the case of Melchizedek], they are received by one of whom it is testified that he lives [perpetually].

⁹ A person might even say that Levi [the father of the priestly tribe] himself, who received tithes (the tenth), paid tithes through Abraham,

¹⁰ For he was still in the loins of his forefather [Abraham] when Melchizedek met him [Abraham].

Question

If those under the Law tithed to the one under grace, then, where do you think we should be tithing?

Under the law or under grace?

Difference between the two tithing systems

Priesthood of Melchizedek	Levitical Priesthood
- A tithing system by faith / life (Heb 7)	- A tithing system under law
- A person tithes because they acknowledge that they are blessed,.	- A person tithes in order to be blessed.
- Tithe out of faith (grace)	- Tithe out of law

8 “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ “In tithes and offerings.

9 You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me.

10 Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

11 I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty.

12 “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Debunking the Malachi 3 Myth on Tithing

- Who was Malachi's primary target?
- What was his main objective for writing the book of Malachi?

Debunking the Malachi 3 Myth on Tithing

Malachi 1:6-9

Referring to the Levitical Priesthood

Malachi 2:1-2

- The curse is preventing them from gaining access into God's presence.
- They received tithes because they had access into God's presence to hear God for the people.

Malachi 3:6-12

The harsh rebuke towards the Levitical Priesthood intensifies.

Debunking the Malachi 3 Myth on Tithing

- **Malachi 4:4**

- He tells them to remember the law of Moses given to them on Mount Horeb...

- (To tell us that what they are expected to obey is under the Law).

6 A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a Father, where is My honor? And if I am a Master, where is the [reverent] fear due Me? says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests, who despise My name. You say, How *and* in what way have we despised Your name?

7 By offering polluted food upon My altar. And you ask, How have we polluted it *and* profaned You? By thinking that the table of the Lord is contemptible *and* may be despised.

8 When you [priests] offer blind [animals] for sacrifice, is it not evil? And when you offer the lame and the sick, is it not evil? Present such a thing [a blind or lame or sick animal] now to your governor [in payment of your taxes, and see what will happen]. Will he be pleased with you? Or will he receive you graciously? says the Lord of hosts.

9 Now then, I [Malachi] beg [you priests], entreat God [earnestly] that He will be gracious to us. With such a gift from your hand [as a defective animal for sacrifice], will He accept it *or* show favor to any of you? says the Lord of hosts.

1 And now, O you **priests**, this commandment is for you.

2 If you will not hear and if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to My name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings; yes, I have already turned them to curses because you do not lay it to heart.

6 For I am the Lord, I do not change; that is why you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.

7 Even from the days of your fathers you have turned aside from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts. But you say, How shall we return?

8 Will a man rob *or* defraud God? Yet you rob *and* defraud Me. But you say, In what way do we rob *or* defraud You? [You have withheld your] tithes and offerings.

9 You are cursed with the curse, for you are robbing Me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and **prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts**, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer [insects and plagues] for your sakes and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground, neither shall your vine drop its fruit before the time in the field, says the Lord of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you happy *and* blessed, for you shall be a land of delight, says the Lord of hosts.

4 [Earnestly] remember the law of Moses, My servant, the statutes and the ordinances which I commanded him on [Mount] Horeb [to give] to all Israel.

Question

Which priesthood did Moses belong to?

Why is it important that we do not serve with a law mentality?

Galatians 3:13

NIV

- ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”

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- ¹³ Christ purchased our freedom [redeeming us] from the curse (doom) of the Law [and its condemnation] by [Himself] becoming a curse for us, for it is written [in the Scriptures], Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified);

13 And you who were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh (your sensuality, your sinful carnal nature), [God] brought to life together with [Christ], having [freely] forgiven us all our transgressions,

14 Having cancelled *and* blotted out *and* wiped away the handwriting of the note (bond) with its legal decrees *and* demands which was in force *and* stood against us (hostile to us). This [note with its regulations, decrees, and demands] He set aside *and* cleared completely out of our way by nailing it to [His] cross.

15 [God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display *and* public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him *and* in it [the cross].