

THE TRUTH ABOUT TITHING Pt. 1

During this two-part study, we are going to observe the difference between tithing vs. free will offerings or grace-giving. In doing so, we will observe the following general principle about giving: the underlying pattern of giving has been basically the _____ throughout history involving _____ (a form of taxation for believers and unbelievers alike) and _____ (voluntary giving for believers only).

A. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

#1: How many times are the following words found in the Bible?

“tithe” (17x)	“free will offering” (21x)
“tithes” (21x)	“contribution” (1x)
“tithing” (1x)	“collection{s}” (4x)
“tenth” in connection with giving (10x)	“gift” referring to giving to the Lord (13x)
“offering{s} to the Lord - 100s in OT; 4x in NT	

Conclusion: The concepts of tithing & free will offerings are _____ found in the Bible.

#2: In what books of the Bible are the words “tithe{s}” or “tithing” found?

Genesis (2x)	Amos (1x)
Leviticus (4x)	Malachi (1x)
Numbers (5x)	Matthew (1x)
Deuteronomy (2x)	Luke (2x)
2 Chronicles (4x)	Hebrews (5x) in reference to Genesis 14
Nehemiah (6x)	

Conclusion: The concept of tithing is almost exclusively found in the _____, while being found only 3x in the _____ in reference to _____ under _____ and is totally _____ in the _____ in reference to the _____ under _____ {except in Hebrews regarding the Old Testament account of Abraham giving tithes to Melchizedek}.

B. SPECIFIC OBSERVATIONS about TITHING vs FREE WILL GIVING:

1. Genesis 14:20 - And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he {Abraham} gave him {Melchizedek} a tithe of all.

- What is the context of this passage?
- What does the Hebrew word “tithe” mean? What did this “tithe” involve and not involve?
- Was this “tithe” demanded by Melchizedek? Why did Abraham give it?
- What would 1 Samuel reveal later about “tithing”? (1 Samuel 8, especially vs. 15) Did this come true? (2 Chronicles 10, especially vs.11)
- Does Hebrews 7:4-9 prove that tithing is still for the Church today?

2. **Genesis 28:20-23** - Then **Jacob made a vow**, saying, "If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 "so that I come back to my father's house in peace, **then** the LORD shall be my God. 22 "And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God's house, and **of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.**"
 - What is the context of these verses?
 - Did God ask of Jacob to make a vow or offer a tithe? Why a "tithe"?

3. **Exodus 35:29** - **The children of Israel brought a freewill offering to the LORD, all the men and women whose hearts were willing to bring material for all kinds of work which the LORD, by the hand of Moses, had commanded to be done.**
 - What is the context of this passage? (Exodus 25:1 ff)
 - What was a free will offering? (35:21, 22, 29) How did it differ from a 'tithe'?
 - Who was to give this 'freewill offering' (35:29)? To whom was it to be given? (35:21,24, 29)
 - What was the 'free will offering' to be used for? What exactly was to be given? (35:22-29)
 - What was the response of the people to this opportunity to give free will offerings for this purpose? (36:3-7)

4. **Leviticus 1:3** - **If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the LORD.**
 - What is the context of this verse?
 - What again is underscored regarding this offering?

5. **Leviticus 19:5** - **And if you offer a sacrifice of a peace offering to the LORD, you shall offer it of your own free will.** What again is highlighted about this offering?

6. **Leviticus 22:18-24** - What 3 things are highlighted about these sacrifices?

7. **Leviticus 22:29** - **And when you offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the LORD, offer it of your own free will.** What again is highlighted? What NT verse does this remind us of?

8. **Leviticus 27:30-32** - **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. 31 **If a man wants at all to redeem any of his tithes, he shall add one-fifth {20%} to it.** 32 **And concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD.**
 - What was this "tithe"? What do we observe about it? Is this the only "tithe" collected?**

9. **Numbers 15:1-4** - What is the context? What do we observe from this?

10. **Numbers 18:21-31** - What is the context? Who has the Lord directed the tithes in Israel be given to? Why has the Lord done this?

Key Verses: Malachi 3:6-12; Leviticus 22:29

Key Words: Tithing; Grace-Giving; Money