

To Tithe or NOT to Tithe Part 2

Today, the people that teach or rant against tithing are people who have been deceived for years by churches collecting Tithes who had no right to do so.

Those who teach we are not under the Law have no right to teach or collect Tithes.

The church, that teaches that those who keep the Law are under a curse, are placing people under a curse by demanding they Tithe which is under the Law.

Arguments abound concerning the Tithe, usually from people who don't want to Tithe.

People make passionate arguments against the Tithe by stringing verses and passages of Scripture together to support their dubious arguments.

Unfortunately, many young believers to the faith, or people whose foundations are not yet established, get caught up in these arguments and get confused.

Some say a Tithe is restrictive, that they would give more than a tenth; but usually many of them don't.

They say, there was no Tithe given after Yeshua the Messiah initiated the ReNewed Covenant.

They argue we are all Priest and Kings now. They argue there is no Temple.

They say there are no Levites today.

They say the Tithe can only be from the produce and from the flocks and herds. Those who make such statements relieve/exempt all who do not raise flocks or farm from the Tithe and leave the responsibilities of Tithing and Offerings to a select few.

They say Tithing is done away with, but giving Offerings are New Covenant. Both Tithe and Offerings were commanded prior to the New Covenant. To these people, only the Offerings survived the Old Testament, not the Tithe. The Offerings they say are freewill which translates to "they will give when they want to or not at all".

They argue Abraham gave a Tithe once and that was from his spoil. They conclude that was the only time Abraham Tithed as if everything Abraham did is written.

Some argue the Tithe was only for the Jewish people.

Others say we are no longer bound by that portion of the Law.

The arguments are redundant and endless.

I see a MAJOR distinction between people who Tithe and people who don't Tithe.

People who Tithe seem to be healthier, wealthier, and wiser. They seem to be happier and enjoy life more.

People who don't Tithe seem to be lacking, sickly, miserable, confused, worriers, never having enough, and struggling to make ends meet.

Human beings by our fallen nature are law breakers and will only do what is required. Human beings will rarely go over and beyond the call of duty.

Never has this been more realized than in this technological generation.

Few people love to give. More and more are takers not givers.

Few people are excited to get the True Gospel of The Kingdom to the Whole World.

This problem has existed since mankind was created.

People come to God for a variety of reasons. People get "saved" for a variety of reasons. People follow Jesus for a variety of reasons.

People go to church for a variety of reasons.

- Some because of Relationships they establish
- Out of Habit
- For Fellowship with others

People go to church:

- For Programs the church offers
- For their children
- For their spouse
- For their parents

There is no Biblical account or record of Adam or Eve ever presenting an Offering to YeHoVaH.

However, the second act of rebellion surrounding the second generation of man, Adam's sons, concerned the giving of Offerings (Firstfruits).

^{Ge 4:4} And Abel, he also brought of the <u>firstlings</u> of his <u>flock</u> and <u>of the fat thereof</u>. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

One must ask oneself what is the Torah/Law and where does it begin? Does it begin at Sinai with the giving of the Commandments or Genesis1:1?

Paul makes this statement about the Law.

^{Ro 2:11} For there is no respect of persons with God.

^{Ro 2:12} For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law;

^{Ro 2:13} (For not the hearers of the law *are* just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

^{Ro 2:14} For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

^{Ro 2:15} Which show the work of the law <u>written in their hearts</u>, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)

Before the Law was given in written form, Abel did the Law from the heart. It was later identified as Holy unto YeHoVaH in the written Law.

^{Nu 18:17} But the firstling of a cow, or the firstling of a sheep, or the firstling of a goat, thou shalt not redeem; they are holy: thou shalt sprinkle their blood upon the altar, and shalt burn their fat for an offering made by fire, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

^{Ge 4:4} And Abel, he also brought of the <u>firstlings</u> of his <u>flock</u> and <u>of the fat thereof</u>. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his **offering**:

^{1Jn 3:12} **Do not be like Cain**, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. **And why did he murder him?** Because his own actions were evil <u>and his brother's were righteous.</u>

What makes a man righteous? Obedience to YeHoVaH.

Righteousness is first mentioned in the Bible in association with Abraham, but the Bible states that Abel was the first righteous man on the planet.

^{Ge 15:6} And Abraham believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for **righteousness**.

^{Jas 2:21} Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Jas 2:22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? Jas 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for **righteousness**: and he was called the Friend of God.

Jas 2:24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

Abraham's righteousness was associated with his works of obedience.

King Saul's Sacrifice was rejected because of his disobedience.

^{1Sa 15:22} And Samuel said, Hath the LORD *as great* delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, <u>to obey *is* better than sacrifice</u>, *and* to hearken than the fat of rams.

^{1Sa 15:23} For rebellion *is as* the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness *is as* iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from *being* king.

^{Heb 11:4} By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, <u>**God testifying of his gifts:**</u> and <u>by it</u> he being dead yet speaketh.

What Abel did caused YeHoVaH to testify. Today, Abel's act of giving still speaks.

But what is he saying? Are we listening?

What Abel did was give YeHoVaH the first. We do not see where this is commanded. But it caused YeHoVaH to testify.

For me, this conversation on Tithing is not about splitting hairs and dissecting words. It is about getting into the spirit, heart, and mind of YeHoVaH/God to see what is acceptable and what is not.

We then see that Noah does something similar without being commanded and YeHoVaH was very pleased with what he did.

Ge 8:15 And God spake unto Noah, saying,

^{Ge 8:16} Go forth of the ark, thou, and thy wife, and thy sons, and thy sons' wives with thee. ^{Ge 8:17} Bring forth with thee every living thing that *is with thee, of all flesh, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth; that they may breed abundantly in the earth, and be fruitful, and multiply upon the earth.*

^{Ge 8:18} And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: ^{Ge 8:19} Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, *and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark.*

^{Ge 8:20} 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.

^{Ge 8:21} 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.*

^{Ge 8:22} While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

^{Ge 9:1} And <u>God blessed Noah and his sons</u>, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth

The Burnt Offering was wholly consumed on the altar, while in other animal Sacrifices only the fat portions were burned. The purpose of the Offering was propitiation and the entire consecration of the worshiper to the Lord.

Leviticus 1

Noah was the second Righteous man the Bible speaks of.

^{Heb 11:7} By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

Abraham Give Tithes to Melchizedek.

^{Ge 14:18} And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.

^{Ge 14:19} And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

^{Ge 14:20} And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. **And he gave him tithes of all.**