



To Tithe or NOT to Tithe – Part 4

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.

In Biblical Theology (the study of God), the **First Mention Principle** is that principle by which the interpretation of any verse is aided by considering the first time its subject appears in Scripture.

In general, the first time a thing is mentioned in Scripture, it carries with it a meaning which will be consistent throughout the entire Bible.

The First Mention is:

- A key which unlocks the door into the full truth
- A gateway into the path of truth
- A guide to discovering the truth in its progressive unfolding
- The first link in a long chain of revelation
- A seed which has within it the full truth that is to be developed in all subsequent mentions

Just when and where the idea arose of making the tenth the rate for paying tribute to rulers and of offering gifts as a religious duty cannot be determined.

History reveals that it existed in Babylon in ancient times, as well as in Persia, Egypt, and even China.

What we do know is Abraham knew of it when he migrated from Ur (Genesis 14:17-20).

The first mention of the word Tithe is in the plural form and associated with the distribution of Goods.

Abraham distributes the Goods. YeHoVaH was first!

Ge 14:17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.*

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.

Ge 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, *and* thy exceeding great reward. **KJV**

It is after this Tithing and distribution that YeHoVaH grants Abraham the desires of his heart and declares Abraham righteous.

The next time we see the word Tithe is in association with Abraham's grandson, Jacob.

Ge 28:10 And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran.

Ge 28:11 And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put *them for* his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep.

Ge 28:12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

Ge 28:13 And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I *am* the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;

Ge 28:14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Ge 28:15 And, behold, I *am* with thee, and will keep thee in all *places* whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done *that* which I have spoken to thee of.

Ge 28:16 And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew *it* not.

Ge 28:17 And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful *is* this place! this *is* none other but the house of God, and this *is* the gate of heaven.

Ge 28:18 And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put *for* his pillows, and set it up *for* a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it.

Ge 28:19 And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first.

Ge 28:20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

Ge 28:21 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

Ge 28:22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God's house: **and of all that thou shalt give me** I will surely give the **tenth/tithe** unto thee.

There is NO Biblical passage whereby Jacob gave a tithe/tenth of anything.

Jacob's name was changed to Israel.

Ge 32:24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

Ge 32:25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

Ge 32:26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Ge 32:27 And he said unto him, What *is thy name?* And he said, *Jacob.*

Ge 32:28 And he said, **Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel:** for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

Ge 32:29 And Jacob asked *him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name.* And he said, *Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name?* And he blessed him there.

Ge 32:30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Right before Rachel died, YeHoVaH visited Jacob again and reaffirmed the name He had given Jacob.

Ge 35:10 And God said unto him, Thy name *is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but Israel shall be thy name: and he called his name Israel.*

Ge 35:21 And Israel journeyed, and spread his tent beyond the tower of Edar.

Ge 35:22 And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine: and Israel heard *it.* *Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:*

Ge 35:23 The sons of Leah; Reuben, **Jacob's firstborn**, and Simeon, and Levi, and Judah, and Issachar, and Zebulun:

Ge 35:24 The sons of Rachel; **Joseph**, and Benjamin:

Ge 35:25 And the sons of Bilhah, Rachel's handmaid; **Dan**, and Naphtali:

Ge 35:26 And the sons of Zilpah, Leah's handmaid; **Gad**, and Asher: *these are the sons of Jacob, which were born to him in Padan-aram.*

In essence, Jacob had **four** firstborn sons.

Leah: **Reuben**

Rachel: **Joseph**

Bilhah: **Dan**

Zilpah: **Gad**

Before the Tithe Instructions are given to Moses, the Instruction concerning the Census is commanded.

Ex 30:11 Then the LORD said to Moses,

Ex 30:12 "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them.

Ex 30:13 Each one who crosses over to those already counted is to give a half shekel, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs. This half shekel is an offering to the LORD.

Ex 30:14 All who cross over, those twenty years old or more, are to give an offering to the LORD.

Ex 30:15 The rich are not to give more than a half shekel and the poor are not to give less when you make the offering to the LORD to atone for your lives.

Ex 30:16 Receive the atonement money from the Israelites and use it for the service of the Tent of Meeting. It will be a memorial for the Israelites before the LORD, making atonement for your lives.

We know that at least twice this Census was recorded in the Torah.

Ex 30:12 "When you take a census of the Israelites to count them, each one must pay the LORD a ransom for his life at the time he is counted. Then no plague will come on them when you number them.

Ex 38:25 The silver obtained from those of the community who were counted in the census was 100 talents and 1,775 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel—

The weight of the silver was about 3 ¾ tons of pure silver.

Ex 38:26 A **bekah** for every man, *that is, **half a shekel**, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men.*

Tribe	First Census	Second Census
Reuben	46,500	43,730
Simeon	59,300	22,200
Gad	45,650	40,500
Judah	74,600	76,500
Issachar	54,400	64,300
Zebulun	57,400	60,500
Ephraim	40,500	32,500
Manasseh	32,200	52,700
Benjamin	35,400	45,600
Dan	62,700	64,400
Asher	41,500	53,400
Naphtali	53,400	45,400
TOTAL	603,550	601,730

By the time Moses received the written Instructions, the idea and definition of Tithing had already been established.

The first mention of Tithes in the written Instructions had to do with the Land Tithe.

The Tithe belongs to YeHoVaH!

The people were commanded to give Tithes to YeHoVaH.

Lev 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.***

Lev 27:31 And if a man will at all redeem *aught of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof.*

Next is the Tithe of the Flocks and Herds.

Lev 27:32 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.*

Lev 27:33 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.