



To Tithe or NOT to Tithe – Part 5

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.

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!**

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

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.

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

Leah: **Reuben**
Rachel: **Joseph**
Bilhah: **Dan**
Zilpah: **Gad**

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

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

The Tithe belong 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 *ought 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.

YeHoVaH replaced the firstborn with the Levites.

Nu 3:5 The LORD said to Moses,

Nu 3:6 "Bring the tribe of Levi and present them to Aaron the priest to assist him.

Nu 3:7 They are to perform duties for him and for the whole community at the Tent of Meeting by doing the work of the tabernacle.

Nu 3:8 They are to take care of all the furnishings of the Tent of Meeting, fulfilling the obligations of the Israelites by doing the work of the tabernacle.

Nu 3:9 Give the Levites to Aaron and his sons; they are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to him.

Nu 3:10 Appoint Aaron and his sons to serve as priests; anyone else who approaches the sanctuary must be put to death."

Nu 3:11 The LORD also said to Moses,

Nu 3:12 "I have taken the Levites from among the Israelites in place of the first male offspring of every Israelite woman. The Levites are mine,

Nu 3:13 for all the firstborn are mine. When I struck down all the firstborn in Egypt, I set apart for myself every firstborn in Israel, whether man or animal. They are to be mine. I am the LORD."

Nu 3:14 The LORD said to Moses in the Desert of Sinai,

Nu 3:15 “Count the Levites by their families and clans. Count every male **a month old or more.**

Nu 3:16 So Moses counted them, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD. ...

... Nu 3:39 The total number of Levites counted at the LORD'S command by Moses and Aaron according to their clans, including every male a month old or more, was **22,000**.

Nu 3:40 The LORD said to Moses, “Count all the firstborn Israelite males who are a month old or more and make a list of their names.

Nu 3:41 Take the Levites for me in place of all the firstborn of the Israelites, and the livestock of the Levites in place of all the firstborn of the livestock of the Israelites. I am the LORD.”

Nu 3:42 So Moses counted all the firstborn of the Israelites, as the LORD commanded him.

Nu 3:43 The total number of firstborn males a month old or more, listed by name, was **22,273**.

Nu 3:45 “Take the Levites in place of all the firstborn of Israel, and the livestock of the Levites in place of their livestock. The Levites are to be mine. I am the LORD.

Nu 3:46 To redeem the 273 firstborn Israelites who exceed the number of the Levites,

Nu 3:47 collect five shekels for each one, according to the sanctuary shekel, which weighs twenty gerahs.

Nu 3:48 Give the money for the redemption of the additional Israelites to Aaron and his sons.”

Nu 3:49 So Moses collected the redemption money from those who exceeded the number redeemed by the Levites

Nu 3:50 From the firstborn of the Israelites he collected silver weighing 1,365 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

22,273 Male Israelites
- 22,000 Levites
273 X 5 Shekels = 1,365 Shekels

Nu 3:51 Moses gave the redemption money to Aaron and his sons, as he was commanded by the word of the LORD.

YeHoVaH replaced the firstborn with the Levites but continued the Redemption of the Firstborn.

YeHoVaH gave the Tithe to the Levites for **THE WORK** they do.

Nu 18:20 The LORD said to Aaron, “You will have no inheritance in their land, nor will you have any share among them; I am your share and your inheritance among the Israelites.

Nu 18:21 “I give to the Levites all the tithes in Israel as their inheritance **in return for the work they do** while serving at the Tent of Meeting.

Nu 18:22 From now on the Israelites **must not go near the Tent of Meeting**, or they will bear the consequences of their sin and will die.

The Census introduced money/silver into the equation of that which is Holy and given to the service of YeHoVaH.

Now, the Redeeming of the Firstborn introduces another income stream to the service of YeHoVaH.

Abraham gave a Tithe of All.

Jacob/Israel swore a Tithe of All.

The Israelites gave a Tithe of All.

The Levites pay Tithes of All to the Priests.

Nu 18:23 But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: *it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance.*

Nu 18:24 But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an **heave offering** unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance.

Nu 18:25 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

Nu 18:26 Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, **even a tenth part of the tithe.**

Nu 18:27 And *this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshingfloor, and as the fulness of the winepress.*

Nu 18:28 Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD'S heave offering to Aaron the priest.

Nu 18:29 Out of all your **gifts** ye shall offer every **heave offering** of the LORD, of all the best thereof, *even the hallowed part thereof out of it.*

YeHoVaH would choose the place the **Tithes and Offerings** would be brought to!

Dt 12:6 And thither ye shall bring your **burnt offerings**, and your **sacrifices**, and your **tithes**, and **heave offerings** of your hand, and **your vows**, and your **freewill offerings**, and the **firstlings of your herds and of your flocks**:

Dt 12:11 Then there shall be a place which the LORD your God shall choose to cause his name to dwell there; thither shall ye bring all that I command you; your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, your tithes, and the heave offering of your hand, and all your choice vows which ye vow unto the LORD:

Dt 26:12 When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, *which is the year of tithing*, and hast given *it* unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled;

Israel actually had three Tithes:

(1) the general Tithe paid to the Levites

(Nu 18:21), who in turn had to give a tenth of that to the priests (Nu 18:26);

(2) the Tithe associated with the sacred meal involving offeror and Levite (Dt 14:22-27);

(3) the Tithe paid every three years to the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow within their gates (Dt 14:28-29).

The giving of Tithes was established long before Levi was born and before Moses, a Levite, was given the Commandments in written form.

Although the Levites were not given an inheritance of land like the other Tribes, they were given towns in the other Tribal Lands. They did own property, houses, and possessions in the towns where they lived.

Lev 25:32 “ ‘The Levites always have the right to redeem **their houses** in the Levitical towns, which they possess.

Lev 25:33 So the **property of the Levites** is redeemable—that is, a house sold in any town they hold—and is to be returned in the Jubilee, because the houses in the towns of the Levites are their property among the Israelites.

Lev 25:34 But the pastureland belonging to **their towns** must not be sold; it is their permanent possession.

Dt 18:6 If a Levite moves from one of your towns anywhere in Israel where he is living, and comes in all earnestness to the place the LORD will choose,

Dt 18:7 he may minister in the name of the LORD his God like all his fellow Levites who serve there in the presence of the LORD.

Dt 18:8 He is to share equally in their benefits, even though he has received money from the sale of family possessions.