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## Should We Tithe?

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### PREFACE

Thank you for taking the time to read this instruction, I pray that the Ruach Ha'Kodesh (Holy Spirit) is present with you as you read and check with you own Bible its contents. The contents of this instruction are based entirely on God's word the Bible, to challenge your current beliefs in the spirit of love that Yeshua spoke of in John 13:35.

Please remember that I have no religious affiliation other than to Yeshua Ha'Mashiach and Almighty God that sent Him, therefore I am bound by the Ruach and not by a manmade religious practice or tradition, assuring you that I have no ulterior motive other than the spreading of the truth that can only be found in Almighty God's word via His gift to us all... the Bible. I pray that this instruction will help you in your quest for truth.

When we begin to study the word of Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob it is necessary to bear in mind our dedication to the obedience of His Law (Torah) as, if we do not shema (Hear and Obey) God will not hear our prayers.

Proverbs 28:9 KJV He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

*Numbers 6:24-26*

## INTRODUCTION

**T**he question of tithing has long been in debate between many denominations of Christendom and the Hebrew roots fraternity. There are of course many ideas for and against tithing and are all equally worthy of note. In this study we will examine what the Bible tells us concerning tithing, why it was made part of the mitzvot, is tithing purely a financial practice and whether we, as followers of Yeshua ha'Mashiach are required to make financial contributions to the church or organisation that we belong.

As usual, I will only approach the issue of tithing from a Biblical viewpoint and I would encourage you to test the scriptures on a personal basis to enable you to make the right decision in Almighty God YeHoVaH's eyes so we may honour Him and His son Yeshua.

When we study this, and any Biblical topic we must always keep in mind our aim is to please our wonderful and loving heavenly Father, this is, without doubt, one of the most crucial aids in our study program for, if we keep this in focus, along with the guidance from the ruach ha'kodesh, it will surely lead to our making the right decision that we can be sure will please the creator of the whole Universe.

As the Biblical description shows, a tithe is a requirement for showing appreciation for what YeHoVaH had done for His people. A tithe is an offering dedicated to Almighty God from the produce of your land, it can be Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Grain etc.

The concept of tithing in the Bible occurs at Genesis 14:20 where Abram gives the King and High Priest of Salem Melchizedek a tenth of the spoils of his battle and Melchizedek blesses Abram with bread and wine.

Tithing became torah when the Levites became the sole priests of Almighty God YeHoVaH. As Levitical priests they were not assigned any of the land that was promised to the nation of Jacob (Israel), they were to be sanctified and serve only in the tabernacle and, later the temple. (*Deuteronomy 14:27*). The tithe was inaugurated to support their physical needs so they could perform their duties fully as they were forbidden to own any land or receive any income other than the tithe allotments. Most of the tithe came in the form of physical sustenance from the offerings that were made by the nation and this lasted until the destruction of the first temple by Babylon.

The Israelites were to uphold the law as it was pleasing to YeHoVaH and the arrangement worked well for the period and, upon the completion of the second temple by Zerubabel after the return from Babylonian exile, the tithing was re-established albeit with rabbinical extras.

## **Why did God introduce Tithing?**

The Bible tells us that, during the exodus the tribes of Israel along with those non-Israelites that were sojourning with them were allotted an inheritance of land, all tribes were included except the tribe of Levi who were chosen as servants and priests of Almighty God YeHoVaH and were forbidden to engage in any secular activity, they were to keep themselves spiritually pure and, as such, had no means of income. The tithing command was introduced by YeHoVaH to ensure the physical needs of the Levites as they performed their duties in the tabernacle and later the temples.

The original tithe consisted of the produce of the 11 tribes of Israel where they gave of their grain, oil, cattle, sheep and other produce however, during the temple periods many Israelites and Proselytes were not farmers so they could not give of their produce, instead they converted a tenth of their income into temple shekels so they could buy the required livestock or produce in order to satisfy the torah instructions. All these tithes were obligatory on all but the poorest.

**Numbers 18:21-26** And, behold, I have given all the tithe in Israel to the sons of Levi for an inheritance, in return for their service which they are serving, the service of the tent of meeting. (22) And the sons of Israel shall not come near to the tent of meeting any more, lest they bear sin, and die. (23) But the Levites shall do the service of the tent of meeting, and they shall bear their iniquity; it shall be a never-ending statute throughout your generations, that in the midst of the sons of Israel they shall have no inheritance; (24) but the tithes of the sons of Israel which they shall lift up to YEHOVAH, a heave offering, I have given to the Levites for inheritance; therefore, I have said to them, they shall have no inheritance among the sons of Israel. (25) And YEHOVAH spoke to Moses, saying, (26) And you shall say to the Levites; and you shall speak to them, when you take the tithe from the sons of Israel, which I have given to you from them, for your inheritance, then you shall lift from it a heave offering of YEHOVAH, a tithe of the tithe.

## **Should Tithing be observed by followers of Yeshua?**

Once again this is a hotly debated issue, even for the spiritual Israelites of today. There are many theories that either support or reject tithing, many have valid reasons. As we know, there are two main Christian denominations that exist today, Catholicism and Protestantism along with thousands of sects that have their roots in these theocratic systems. Many of these sects enforce tithing as a means of income for their particular church and one must give their respective churches 10% of their income, which can represent a large sum in some cases.

Many of the laity believe that, if they do not tithe, they will displease Almighty God and some sects even preach that if they don't tithe, they will not prosper financially. Is this correct? If we truly are searching for the truth, we will desire to know what Almighty God thinks of the matter and we can do this by studying His words in His library, the Bible.

As we know, the requirement for tithing was first formalised in torah (*Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 14:22-24*). There are two instances in Genesis that mention tithing, Genesis 14:20 tells us that Abraham gave a tenth of his wealth to Melchizedek, king of Salem, the second Genesis account of tithing occurs at Genesis 28:22 concerning a tithe that was given to YeHoVaH freely by Jacob. It is important to note that these two Genesis instances where the word “tithe” or tenth of a person’s possessions were entirely voluntary

*Leviticus 27:30-32* And all the tithe of the land, of the seed of the land, of the fruit of the tree, shall belong to YEHOVAH; it is holy to YEHOVAH. (31) And if a man really redeems any of his tithes, he shall add its fifth to it. (32) And all the tithe of the herd and of the flock, all that passes under the rod, a tenth shall be holy to YEHOVAH;

*Deuteronomy 14:22-24* Tithing you shall tithe all the increase of your seed that the field yields year by year. (23) And you shall eat before YEHOVAH your God in the place which He shall choose to cause His name to dwell there (Jerusalem), the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the first-lings of your herd and of your flock; that you may learn to fear YEHOVAH your God all your days. (24) And if the way is too long for you, so that you cannot carry it, because the place is too far from you which YEHOVAH your God shall choose to set His name there, when YEHOVAH shall bless you;

donations.

The command to tithe is first given in the books of *Leviticus 27:30, 32; Numbers 18:21, 26; and Deuteronomy 12:17, 22, 23, 28*. these chapters are the first instance where the nation of Israel was instructed to tithe their produce.

## **Do the worshippers of Almighty God need to tithe today?**

The command to tithe lasted until the destruction of the second temple by Rome in 70 CE. At this time the temple system was abolished due to the fact that there was no temple and therefore no serving priests. All animal sacrifices and the many other offerings were terminated as there was no temple with which to perform the rites. If the temple was still functional and we were still waiting for the Mashiach then the answer to this would be a resounding yes however, since the true Mashiach has come and gone and there is no physical temple the requirement to tithe, like the offerings and sacrifices, has been suspended therefore we are not obligated to tithe. Even when the third temple is built there will still be no requirement to tithe as the Mashiach Yeshua superseded all the ceremonial laws written in the torah so there is no requirement for the Levitical priesthood to perform their duties. Furthermore, as all records of lineage of the original 12 tribes of Israel have been destroyed, no one knows for certain which tribe they belong too.

It is fair to say that, whilst there is no physical temple and tithing is no longer obligatory as there are no Levitical priests to support, tithing has been replaced by voluntary donation. If a believer wishes to support a particular ministry there is no obligatory commands as to how much an individual can donate. *2 Corinthians 9:7*.

## **A word of warning!**

As with most things in this secular world there are people that will take advantage of others, this is unfortunately true in many so-called Biblical ministries that extort money from those that do not fully understand the Bible message. To those people in such congregations, I would say that your salvation is based on loving your neighbour, keeping the commandments of Almighty God YeHoVaH and fulfilling the great commission, not on how much you donate to your church or ministry.

Tithing was an integral part of Levitical worship, with the destruction of the temple tithing became obsolete. That is not to say that charitable donations are obsolete, we are still under obligation to support the poor, orphans and widows just as instructed in the torah, but this is not tithing, giving to those less fortunate than ourselves is a matter of the heart, not a means of ministry revenue. Matthew 6:1-4 highlights this principle most eloquently.

There are far too many “ministries” that have turned the word of God into a secular business, they produce internet programs, DVD’s, books, pamphlets and tracts that they sell for profit. This saddens me greatly, and if it saddens me a sinful human then just think how Almighty God is affected. It is morally wrong for someone that has received a revelation from Almighty God, to put a price tag on it and withhold that information until you pay for it, this is indeed an abomination to the God that created us and such people that are guilty of this spiritual crime will certainly be judged by it.

Sha’ul (Paul) had the Godly principle, he showed his ministry to be a gift from Almighty God, throughout his ministry he worked his passage so as not to be a burden on the congregations. 2 Thessalonians 3:8 [“Neither did we eat any man's bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you”](#):

The Bible tells us that the word of God is exactly what it is, the word of God and no one has the right to sell that information or place a copyright notice on it. True lovers of Yeshua do not “peddle the word of God”, they receive free so they follow God’s commandments and give free. Matthew 10:8.

At all times we must observe our Fathers principles, when we do this we can be sure that we are pleasing the Father. Remember what our Master told us to do....

**Matthew 6:1-4** Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. <sup>2</sup>Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>3</sup>But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: <sup>4</sup>That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

Dear reader, do not be misled into giving your money to those who either do not understand or deliberately attempt to mislead you by threat of tithing, they are extorting money from you to enhance their lifestyle and travel the world, this is not tithing, it is extortion. Ask yourself, how much secular wealth did Yeshua leave behind when he gave his life? How secularly wealthy did the true Apostles and disciples the end of their lives?

To spread the word of Almighty God you do not require expensive recording studios or elaborate video sets, you just need the Ruach ha'Kodesh, love of Bible truth and a burning desire to please our wonderful heavenly Father, the creator of the universe YeHoVaH!

**2 Corinthians 9:6-15** But remember this: the one sowing sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one sowing generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup>Each one as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity, for YEHOVAH loves a cheerful giver. (Prov. 22:8) <sup>8</sup>And YEHOVAH is able to make all grace to abound toward you, that in everything, always having all self-sufficiency, you may abound to every good work; <sup>9</sup>even as it has been written, "He has distributed liberally, He has given to the poor, His righteousness abides forever." (Psa. 112:9) <sup>10</sup>Now He that supplies seed to the Sower and bread for eating, may He supply and multiply your seed and increase the fruits of your righteousness, <sup>11</sup>in everything you being enriched to all sincerity, which works out thanksgiving to YEHOVAH through us. <sup>12</sup>Because the ministry of this service is not only making up the things lacking of the saints, but also multiplying through many thanksgivings to YEHOVAH, <sup>13</sup>through the proof of this charitable service, they glorifying YEHOVAH by your freely expressed submission to the good news of Mashiach, and through your generosity you have become partakers with them and with all men; <sup>14</sup>and they offer prayer on your behalf with greater love, because of the overflowing grace of YEHOVAH which is on you. <sup>15</sup>But thanks be to YEHOVAH for His unspeakable free gift.

I do not and will never ask for donations to enhance this ministry, I have no need too as my Father supplies all I will ever need, and He will do the same to you too, it's all a matter of trust!

SHALOM

## GLOSSARY

- **YHVH [ יהוה ]** The personal Name of Almighty God. Y<sub>e</sub>H<sup>o</sup>V<sub>a</sub>H.
- **Yehoshua (Yeshua)** The personal name of Almighty God's son. (Modern: Jesus).
- **Ruach Ha'Kodesh** Yehovah's motive force. (Holy Spirit).
- **Kohan Gadol** High Priest.
- **Shaúl** Saul (Paul).
- **Israel** The nation comprising the 12 tribes of Jacob (Israel) including people of the nations grafted into Israel.
- **Gentile** Any person that does not follow the Abrahamic Religion (Pagan).
- **Tanakh** The books of the Hebrew scriptures. (Old Testament).
- **B'rit HaDashah** The Renewed Covenant. (New Testament)
- **Torah** The instructions or laws given to the Israelite Nation by Yehovah to Moses.
- **Oral Torah** The additional instructions added by the Pharisaic (Rabbinic) Jews which form the basis of the Mishnah, Talmud, Gemara and other Jewish religious Books.
- **Gospel** Good News.
- **Christendom** All religions that profess belief in Jesus Christ.
- **Apostolic Fathers** The group of gentiles that directed the formation of the early church after the last apostle (John) died.