

1. Understanding the tithe

- a) In part 2 of this series, we studied about God's Promised Blessings, including the blessings for those who are faithful in returning their tithes and offerings. Today, we want to study the topic of tithing in greater detail.
- b) Let's begin with this question: What is a tithe?
- c) Perhaps the most well-known passage about tithing is found in Malachi 3. But tithing was practiced long before that time. Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22, Leviticus 27:30-32, Nehemiah 10:38-39

2. The LORD's appeal through the prophet Malachi

- a) Malachi 3:7-10 What impresses you the most about this appeal from the LORD?
- b) Where was the storehouse during the time the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness?
- c) Where was the storehouse after the children of Israel settled in the Promised Land? (The tabernacle at Shiloh and then the Temple in Jerusalem)
- d) How did the children of Israel bring their tithes to the LORD's house? Exodus 23:14-17
- e) Where is the storehouse today?

3. The Purpose of Tithing

- a) God owns everything. He doesn't need our resources. So, what is the purpose of returning a tithe that is holy to the LORD? Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10a, Numbers 18:21,24

- b) The ceremonial system of the Old Testament is no longer operational. Who would be supported by the tithe in the Christian church?
- c) How does tithe enable the church to have a global impact far beyond our regional borders?
- d) Jesus taught, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). How does this truth relate to returning our tithe?

4. Tithing in the 21st Century

- a) In Bible times, tithing was primarily in produce, grain, fruit, livestock. Today, tithe is usually returned to the storehouse as money.
- b) In a culture where the government requires a portion of our income as taxes, should we return a tithe of our entire income or just the amount that we receive as increase? How does the promise of the LORD in Psalm 32:8 help us with this decision?
- c) What lessons can we learn from the experience of the widow of Zarephath? 1 Kings 17:8-16, 17-24
- d) What lessons can we learn from the experience of the rich man with the small barn? Luke 12:16-21
- e) What is your testimony regarding tithing?

