

## Tithing / Church of the Open Bible / 02.14.16

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The word "tithe" means a \_\_\_\_\_, or ten \_\_\_\_\_.

**Genesis 14.18-20** Before the Mosaic Law, \_\_\_\_\_ gave the priest Melchizedek a tithe of his bounty from the recent war. The Bible does not indicate this was a regular practice, and there was no religious organization in those days to which he could tithe regularly.

**Genesis 28.20-22** Still before the Mosaic Law, \_\_\_\_\_ vowed to give God a tithe of all God gave him. It is unclear how he would do this, since there still was no religious organization. This appears to be a free offering, but it is interesting that again it is ten percent, suggesting this was an understood standard.

**Numbers 18.21-29** One purpose for the tithe in the Mosaic Law was to support the \_\_\_\_\_, who performed full-time religious duties and had no part in the land inheritance of the tribes of Israel.

People gave ten percent of their \_\_\_\_\_ and the first and best of the animals born that year, or ten percent of their cash income.

**Deuteronomy 12.17-19** A second purpose of the tithe was to \_\_\_\_\_ who blessed you with income in the first place: God! Remembering our dependence on God is important.

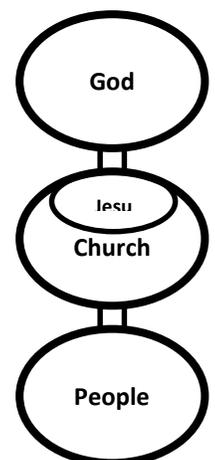
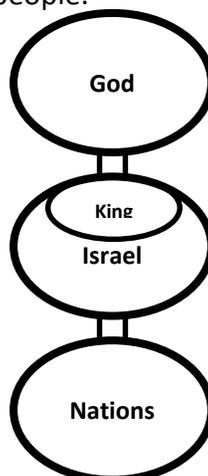
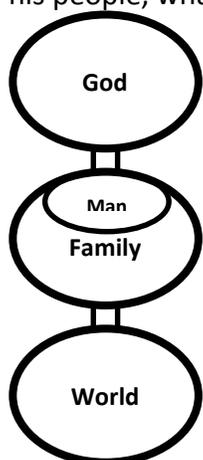
**Deuteronomy 14.22-29** A third purpose of the tithe was to support the \_\_\_\_\_, specifically the orphans, widows, and foreigners who had no part in the land.

A fourth purpose of the tithe was to show \_\_\_\_\_ for God. He is sovereign over us, so we submit to him and obey him. Reflecting the need for both dependence and submission, the Mosaic Law promised God's blessing on the harvest *only if* the people were obedient to his commands.

**Deuteronomy 26.12-13** The tithe was \_\_\_\_\_ to God: it was holy, separated out for his purposes, important in his eyes.

**Dispensations, Covenant, and Three Circles** Some things \_\_\_\_\_ change: God himself, God's character, God's original purposes for people [reflecting God's character, representing God, reproducing the image of God, and ruling over creation as God's stewards].

Some things in the Bible \_\_\_\_\_ change: how God develops his plan in history, how God interacts with his people, what he specifically requires of his people.



\_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible are agreements or treaties God initiated between himself and his people, specifying promises by God and commands from God for his people.

The church is experiencing a partial realization of the \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant, which replaced the Mosaic Covenant for the nation of Israel. Jesus said he was inaugurating this with his blood. So the promises, commands, and curses in the Mosaic Covenant do not necessarily apply to us in the church today.

**Proverbs 3.9-10** Pastor Will believes this command and promise are tied to the \_\_\_\_\_ Covenant for Israel, which was in force when the proverb was written by King Solomon.

In the New Testament writings and other early church writings, there is never a \_\_\_\_\_ for the people in the church to tithe [give 10%], though there is much talk of giving.

**Malachi 3.8-12** God is talking to \_\_\_\_\_ through the prophet Malachi, about the remnant who returned to the land from exile being no better than their forefathers at obeying the commands of the Mosaic Covenant; thus they were not experiencing the covenant blessings, and would receive the covenant curses.

This passage does not provide a command or a promise to the \_\_\_\_\_. Taken in context – considering the historical situation and the literary flow of the book – it is clear this is about Israel and their Mosaic Covenant, not about us and the New Covenant.

It is better to use \_\_\_\_\_ to interpret experiences than to use experiences to interpret scripture. If God has blessed you financially because you have been tithing even when it hurts, that probably reflects his willingness to trust you with more resources because you have proved faithful with a little; it does not reflect God fulfilling Mosaic Covenant promises for your obedience to Mosaic Covenant commands.

**Summary** Giving 10% of your income is no longer the specific command, but the purposes of the tithe remain today. Honoring and obeying God, depending on God, helping the needy, and providing for full-time ministry workers [and other expenses of the ministry] all are valid reasons to give money to the church today.

You will find with careful study of the New Testament, that – as in most things – Jesus and his disciples actually raised the standard higher than was previously understood! The follow up to this sermon will be one on what the New Testament teaches about giving in the church.