

Stewardship

Giving To The Work of The Lord I Chronicles 29:1-21

Introduction

Because David had been a man of war and had shed blood, he was not permitted to build a temple for God (***I Chronicles 28:3; 2 Samuel 7:1-29***). However, David made provisions for his son, Solomon, to build the temple in Jerusalem.

I. How David Gave To The Work of The Lord (*I Chronicles 29:2-9, 17*):

- A.** David gave generously or liberally (*v. 2*).
- B.** David gave sacrificially (*vv. 3-5*).
- C.** David gave exemplary (*vv. 4-9, Living Bible*).
- D.** David gave cheerfully (*v. 9; cf. 2 Cor. 9:7*).
- E.** David gave willingly (*vv. 6-9; 14, 17; cf. Ex. 35:5, 21-22; 36:5-7*). No pressure was applied.
- F.** David gave sincerely (*vv. 9, 17*). Motives were right.

II. Why David Gave To The Work of The Lord (*I Chronicles 29:1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11-16, 20-21*):

- A.** David recognized that he was giving to God and not to men (*vv. 1, 7, 9*).
- B.** David put his treasures where his heart was (*v. 3; cf. Matt. 6:19-21*).
- C.** David first gave himself to the Lord (*v. 5, Living Bible; cf. 2 Cor. 8:5*).
- D.** David recognized that he was a steward or a manager of what belong to God (*vv. 11-16, 16; cf. Job 1:21; Ps. 24:1; Haggai 2:8; James 1:17; Deut. 8:10-18*).
- E.** David recognized that all earthly things are temporal (*v. 15, Living Bible; cf. Luke 12:13-21; Mark 8:36-37*).
- F.** David recognized that giving is a part of worship (*vv. 20-21; cf. Matt. 2:11*).

Robbing God

Malachi 3:7-12

Introduction

In the days of Malachi, the people of God were guilty of robbing God in tithes and offerings. The word **“tithes” means “a tenth part.”** Three tithes were required by God to support the ministers and the ministries of God. Two of the three tithes were annual, and one was every three years: **(1) The Temple or Levite Tithe** to support the priest and Levites (*Num. 18:21-28; Neh. 13:4-12*); **(2) The Celebration or Festival Tithe** (*Deut. 12:6-17; 14:22-27, Living Bible*). This tithe was carried to Jerusalem where the families would join in a celebration meal. This tithe would also be shared with the Levites. **(3) The Welfare Tithe** for the poor, the widows, fatherless, helpless, etc. This tithe was required every third year (*Deut. 14:28-29, Living Bible*).

The people were also robbing God in offerings. The first five chapters of Leviticus mention five different offerings. Three of these offerings were voluntary and two were required. In Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, we read about “freewill offering”, “the offering of first-fruits”, “the offering of the half-shekel sanctuary tax,” and the offering of animals, in which portions of the sacrifice were given to the priest (*Ex. 30:13; Lev. 7:14; Num. 15:19-21; 18:26-29*). Many believe that the offerings withheld in *Malachi 3:8* were those which supported the minister (*Ex. 29:27-28; Neh. 13:5*).

- I. The Reasons For Robbing God (*Malachi 3:7-8*):**
 - A.** Disobedience to the Word of God (*v. 7a; cf. Lev. 27:30*).
The tithe was not a freewill offering but a payment that was due. Therefore, to withhold the tithe was robbing God.
 - B.** Departure from God (*7b*).
- II. The Results of Robbing God (*Malachi 3:9-11*):**
 - A.** The robbers were cursed with a curse (*v. 9; cf. Deut. 28:15-19, 23-24, 38-45*).
 - B.** The windows of heaven were closed (*v. 10*).
 1. The heavens were closed—no rain (*v. 10*)
 2. The crops were destroyed by the devours (**locust and other insects**) (*v. 11*).
 3. The cattle were diseased (*Mal. 1:7-8*).
- III. The Remedy For Robbing God (*Malachi 3:7, 10*)**
 - A.** Recognize, Repent, Return (*v. 7*).
 - B.** Bring the tithes into the storehouse (*v. 10a*).
 - C.** Test God in the matter of tithing (*v. 10b*).
- IV. The Rewards For Obedience (*Malachi 3:10-12*):**
 - A.** An open heaven (*v. 10a*).
 - B.** A poured out blessing (*v. 10b*)
 - C.** Rebuke of the devourer (*v. 11*)
 - D.** A testimony among the nations (*v. 12*).

Different Beliefs about Tithing, Malachi 3:7-12

- I. Many believe that tithing is legalistic because we are now under grace and not under law.
- A. The Bible clearly teaches that we are under grace; we are not under law. We are saved by grace and not by keeping laws (**Eph. 2:8-9**).
 - B. Tithing started with Abraham 400 years before Moses and the Law (**Gen. 14:1-24; Heb. 7:1-10**).
 - C. Adrian Rogers said regarding the tithe: “Abraham commenced it. Jacob continued it. Moses commanded it. Jesus commended it. Who am I to cancel it?” (**Gen. 14:20; 28:20-22; Lev. 27:30; Num. 18:21-28; Deut. 12:6-17; 14:22-29; Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42**).
 - D. Note **Matt. 23:23; Luke 11:42, 18:12**. The only other mention of tithing is **Hebrews 5 & 7**. Why not more in the N.T. about tithing? Dr. Charles Stanley said Jesus did not say more because it was not necessary.
 - E. Again we are under grace. We are not under law. Do we do less under grace than what was done under the law? Grace exceeds the law (**Matt. 5:20, 21-22, Living Bible 27-28, 43-44**).
 - F. Love exceeds the law. Love gives more than what the law requires. There is a law that parents are to care for their children. What causes them to do the most for their children love or law?
 - G. Note that when a percentage can be attached to giving in the New testament it was always more than 10%:
 - 1. Poor Widow gave 100% (**Mark 12:41-44**).
 - 2. Zacchaeus gave over 50% (**Luke 19:8**).
- II. Walter Martin believes that when Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek (**Gen. 14:18-20**), Abraham was a picture of the believer paying tithes to Jesus Christ (**Heb. 7:1-10**).
- A. Melchizedek was a picture or type of Jesus Christ. Melchizedek received tithes as a type of Christ.
 - B. Melchizedek was king of Salem. His name means king of peace. Jesus Christ is king of peace and king of righteousness. Jesus is king of more than just Salem. Jesus is King of the universe. Jesus is king of kings and Lord of Lords.
 - 1. Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek who was a forerunner of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is greater than Melchizedek.
 - 2. **Hebrews 7:8-10** says that the priesthood of Aaron and Levi were in Abraham’s body. When Abraham fell down before Melchizedek not only did Levi and Aaron fall down, but all Jews because they were in the loins of Abraham.
 - 3. According to **Heb. 6:20; 7:11-21**, Christ is the new High Priest.

4. According to **Galatians 3:29**, if one belongs to Christ one is Abraham's seed. "If you are Abraham's child and if Abraham paid tithe to Melchizedek you are to pay tithe to the priest after the order of Melchizedek and that is Jesus Christ. This is the compulsion of grace not law. Grace compels us to give to Jesus Christ. Start with 10% not because the law tells you, but because grace compels you."

- III. Dr. Charles Swindoll believes that tithing is a guideline for giving that is neither commanded nor condemned in the New Testament.
 - A. Dr. Swindoll said, "We do not read anywhere in the New Testament that we are to stop tithing. Tithing did not start with the law. Tithing was obligated under the law. Where do we find that tithing stops after the law?"
 - B. Abraham gave tithes, and Abraham is pointed to as an example to follow in **Romans 4 and Hebrews 7**.
 - C. Dr. Swindoll points out that Abraham was not a citizen of Salem (Jerusalem); therefore Abraham was not paying taxes when he gave tithes.
 - D. Dr. Swindoll points out that God liked tithing so much during the time of Abraham that He established it as a rule during the time of Moses.
 - E. Dr. Swindoll tithes, but he believes that one should give as one is directed by God and that one is wrong if one does not follow God's directions.
 - F. Since there were three tithes, and since the Jew gave more than a tenth of his crops, Dr. Swindoll recommends 20% as a starting point.
- IV. Dr. John MacArthur believes that tithing was taxation in the Old Testament and not giving.
 - A. Dr. MacArthur believes that there were two types of giving in the Bible: Required giving and Freewill or voluntary giving.
 1. Required giving started in Egypt, and it was 20% (**Gen. 41:34; 47:24, 26**).
 2. The Jews paid three tithes which added up to 23% (**Num. 18:21-28; Deut. 12:6-17; 14:22-29**).
 3. The tithes were a tax that belongs to God, and to withhold the tithe was to rob God (**Lev. 27:30; Malachi 3:8**).
 4. Required giving was always in relation to taxation, and voluntary giving was always in relation to God.
 - B. Dr. MacArthur believes that New Testament giving is the same as the Old Testament: "Pay your taxes and give to God whatever your heart prompts you to give" (**Matt. 7:24-27; 22:15-22; Rom. 13:1-8**).
 - C. Dr. MacArthur believes that when tithing is taught as a method of giving believers tend not to go beyond 10% in their giving.

- V.** Dr. Tony Evans believes that the local church is now the temple that contains the “storehouse” (**Malachi 3:10; cf. I Cor. 3:16; 16:2; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22; I Tim. 3:15**).
- A.** The Bible teaches that the local church is the new temple (**I Cor. 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22**).
1. Paul says “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in stores...” (**I Cor. 16:2**).
 2. In **I Tim. 3:15**, the local church is called “the house of God.”
- B.** Dr. Evans believes that the tithes should be brought to the “storehouse”.
1. In the Old Testament, the “storehouse” was in the Temple, which was God’s designated place of corporate worship.
 2. Today the “storehouse” is the local church where one is receiving spiritual food or nourishment.
 3. Offerings may be given to the local church, or to other ministries, or to meet needs; but the tithe should be restricted to the “storehouse” or local church.
- C.** Dr. Evans believes that heaven is closed to those who are robbing God in tithes and offerings. Dr. Evans believes that the deeper one is in debt the faster one needs to run to the practice of tithing in order to unlock the windows of heaven.
- D.** Dr. Evans believes that when one is in debt, God should be the last to be robbed not the first because no creditor loves you more and no creditor can do more for you than God.
- E.** What were some of the differences between tithes and offerings? According to Dr. Evans:
1. The tithe was mandatory, the offering was voluntary.
 2. God determined the amount of the tithe, the worshipper determined the amount of the offering.
 3. The tithe was the key that opened the windows of heaven (**Malachi 3:10**), the offering was the seed planted that determined the level of blessings from heaven (**Luke 6:38, 2 Cor. 9:6**).
 4. The tithe could be given out of duty, the offering was given out of devotion.
- F.** According to Dr. Evans, the offering was not really an offering until after the tithe was paid.
- VI.** Dr. John Maxwell believes that believes who do not tithe to their local church are robbing God and are under a curse (**Malachi 3:8-9**).
- A.** When Dr. Maxwell was the pastor of the Skyline Wesleyan Church in San Diego, CA, he would not pray for anyone having financial difficulties unless they promised to start tithing. He believed that he could not ask God to bless people who were under a curse. Dr. Maxwell also required all leaders to tithe, including the ushers and counters. He believed that robbers of God should not be in positions of leadership.

- B.** Dr. Maxwell believes that “According to ***Deuteronomy 14:22-23***, tithing was to be a practice of prioritizing God in life, and of recognizing that He is the source of our income.”
 - C.** Dr. Maxwell would challenge believers to take a Ninety-day Tithing Test. If no significant changes were noted, the tithes would be refunded.
- VII.** Pastor Malone believes that tithing is to be the starting point in giving because we are under grace and grace exceeds the law (***Matt. 5:20, 21-22, 27-28, 43-44; Mark 12:41-44; Luke 19:8***).
 - A.** In 1970 Pastor Malone took the tithing test. The spiritual blessing that was poured out was so great that it was necessary to take a leave of absence from work from November 5th to December 4, 1970.
 - B.** Pastor Malone believes that the local church can do all that God has called her to do if the members will pay tithes and give offerings, including special offerings for special projects (***Ex. 35:4-5, 20-22, 29; 36:3-7; I Chron. 29:1-21; 2 Chron. 24:1-14; 2 Cor. 8 and 9***).
 - C.** If you have doubts about tithing, take the ninety-day tithing test (***Malachi 3:10***).