

What The Bible Teaches on  
**TITHES and OFFERINGS**  
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## Chapter 4: How did Israel keep the Law about tithes and offerings?

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Sadly, the children of Israel treated the tithe as they did the rest of the Law. More often than not, they ignored it, and disaster befell them. In times of spiritual revival, they brought their tithes and offerings, and they received blessings from God.

#### (a) 2 Chronicles 31:1-21

This is the record of the reform and spiritual renewal initiated by King Hezekiah. He ordered the destruction of all the sacred stones and altars set up for the worship of idols all over the country. He then assigned priests to offer burnt offerings as prescribed in the Law and he ordered the people living in Jerusalem to give the portion due to the priests and Levites. The response was overwhelming. The priests had enough to eat with plenty to spare. The king prospered, and the Lord blessed His people abundantly.

#### (b) Nehemiah 10:28-39

This was the promise made by the people of Israel under Nehemiah the governor following the rebuilding of the city wall surrounding Jerusalem. Having read from the Book of the Law, the people understood what was required of them, and their leaders made this pledge on behalf of the people. In chapter 12:43-47, we read that the people kept the promise.

#### (c) Nehemiah 13:4-12

There was a temporary lapse when Nehemiah was absent from Jerusalem, and the man he had put in charge failed very sadly in

his duties. On his return however, Nehemiah restored the people to their senses.

#### (d) Amos 4:1-13

Again and again, God sent His holy prophets to warn the people of Israel for disregarding His Law, and He often punished them for refusing to listen. The warning from the Prophet Amos, however, has an important new element to it. It is not that the people did not bring their sacrifices and tithes and freewill offerings. They went faithfully to the appointed holy places in Bethel and Gilgal, and they took all the required gifts with them. The problem was that they did it all in the wrong spirit – boasting instead of repentance, humility and thanksgiving (note verses 4-5). As a result, they received punishment instead of blessings from the Lord.

#### (e) Malachi 3:6-12

In this passage, the prophet Malachi explained that the problems the children of Israel had with their personal finances and national economy was directly linked to their failure to pay their tithes and offerings. As a result the whole nation was under a curse. Pests devoured their crops, and expenditure constantly exceeded income. God assured them that the only way to prosperity was to give not in part but “the whole tithe” into the house of the Lord. He promised such an overwhelming abundance of blessing that there would not be enough room to contain it.

This blessing is two-fold. First, He would put an end to the pests which destroyed their crops, and second, the farms would yield

abundantly and all the fruit would ripen. As a result, the nations of the earth would see this material blessing and know the difference between those who served the Lord and those who did not.

It is important to note that someone who gave his tithe but did not plant any crops would not receive any blessing. This is because all the blessings promised were linked directly to what was planted. God's rich blessings do not exclude hard work!