

# FINANCIAL PEACE DURING TURBULENT TIMES

*“A Look Back at Biblical Giving”*



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**Introduction:** Sometimes putting an issue into its historical context gives us a better perspective for today. Perhaps that will be true in the area of giving financially to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

## Biblical Giving: Three Periods of Time

### **I. Before the Law (Prior to Moses)**

Tithe (Ma Aser) Hebrew word meaning: the tenth

- A. No universal law on tithing in scripture.
- B. No fixed percentage or prescribed frequency.  
(Gen. 4:3, 8:20, 12:7, 13:18)
- C. God followers gave spontaneously as a way to say “thank you”.

### **First Mention of Tithing in the Bible**

- A. Abraham gave one-tenth of what he took in battle (Gen. 14:18-30).
- B. Abraham’s tithe to Melchisedec (type of Jesus Christ) took place six generations before the law. (Heb. 7:1-4)
- C. Abraham portrays a life of righteousness and faith (Gal. 3:6-8, James 2:23, Heb. 11:8).

### **II. Under the Law (Emphasis was on quantity)**

\*From Moses to Jesus Christ giving was required.

First Tithe: Levite’s Tithe or Lord’s Tithe (Lev. 27:30)

- 1. Ten percent of animals and crops given to pay the salary of the priests. (Numb. 18:21-24)
- 2. Considered to be robbing God if you didn’t pay (Mal. 3:8).

Second Tithe: Festival Tithe (Deut. 12:10-18)

- 1. Ten percent of crops and animals take to Jerusalem every year to be eaten by friends, servants and priests.
- 2. Promoted unity and increased love for God as each individual learned to give.

Third Tithe: Poor Tithe (Deut. 14:28-29)

Every third year 10% of everything was given for the poor, the fatherless and the widows.

NOTE: Under the law, the required percentage of giving was 23 1/3% annually.

### **Three other ways that the Jews were required to give**

1. Profit Sharing Plan: leave a portion of your crops for those in need (Lev. 19:9-10).
2. Temple Tax: every person twenty years and older was required to give (Neh. 10:32-33, Deut. 30:11-16).
3. Sabbatical Year: every seven years the entire crop was left to those in need (Ex. 23:10-11, Lev. 25:1-7).

### **Freewill Giving under the Law (Emphasis on attitude and quality)**

First fruits offering: (Num. 18:12-13)

- A. Give God the first and the best.
- B. True gift by faith without knowing what the harvest might yield.
- C. Glorifying God through giving results in abundance (Prov. 3:9-10, 11:24-25).

NOTE: Freewill giving is always an issue of the heart.

Example: What can God do with a group of people that love Him and have willing hearts? (Exodus 25:1-2, 35:4, 10, 21, 22, 25 and 29, 36:2-7)

#### Action Plan:

1. Memory verse: Proverbs 3:9-10
2. Read pages 34-42
3. Complete form 5 and 7