Lesson 56 – Tithes and Offerings

1) According to the Old Testament, what belongs to God?
Leviticus 27:30,32 And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the _____ of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD… …And concerning the tithe of the _____, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.

In the Hebrew economy one tenth of the income of the people was set apart to support the public worship of God.

2) Was tithing a Jewish thing?
Genesis 14:20 (Melchidek speaking to Abraham) And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him _____ of all.
3) What did Jacob say?
Genesis 28:21-22 So that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the _____ unto thee.

The tithing system did not originate with the Hebrews. From the earliest times the Lord claimed a tithe as His, and this claim was recognized and honored.

4) What does God do for Everything?
Acts 17:25 …seeing he giveth to all life, and _____, and all things;
5) What belongs to God?
Psalm 50:10 For every _____ of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills.
Haggai 2:8 The silver is mine, and the _____ is mine, saith the LORD of hosts.
6) Who gives power to make wealth?
Deuteronomy 8:18 But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get _____, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

As an acknowledgment that all things came from Him, the Lord directed that a portion of His bounty should be returned to Him in gifts and offerings to sustain His worship.

7) Is there a tithe of our time?
Exodus 20:10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any _____, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:

God reserved to Himself a specified portion of man's time and of his means, and no man could, without guilt, appropriate either for his own interests.

8) What other offerings were made throughout the year?
Exodus 30:13 This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a _____ after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD.

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2 Kings 12:4,5 And Jehoash said to the priests, All the money of the dedicated things that is brought into the house of the LORD, even the money of every one that passeth the account, the money that every man is set at, and all the money that cometh into any man's _____ to bring into the house of the LORD, Let the priests take it to them, every man of his acquaintance: and let them repair the _____ of the house, wheresoever any breach shall be found.

Nehemiah 10:32-33 Also we made ordinances for us, to charge ourselves yearly with the third part of a shekel for the _____ of the house of our God; For the shewbread, and for the continual meat offering, and for the continual burnt offering, of the sabbaths, of the new moons, for the set feasts, and for the _____ things, and for the sin offerings to make an atonement for Israel, and for all the work of the house of our God.

The tithe was to be exclusively devoted to the use of the Levites, the tribe that had been set apart for the service of the sanctuary. But this was by no means the limit of the contributions for religious purposes. The tabernacle, as afterward the temple, was erected wholly by freewill offerings; and to provide for necessary repairs and other expenses.,

As the men of Israel, laden with the first fruits of field and orchard and vineyard, gathered at the tabernacle, there was made a public acknowledgment of God's goodness.

9) What did God promise?
Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the _____, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a _____, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

10) And when you did?
Malachi 3:11 And I will rebuke the _____ for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

The contributions required of the Hebrews for religious and charitable purposes amounted to fully one fourth of their income. So heavy a tax upon the resources of the people might be expected to reduce them to poverty; but, on the contrary, the faithful observance of these regulations was one of the conditions of their prosperity.

A striking illustration of the results of selfishly withholding even freewill offerings from the cause of God was given in the days of the prophet Haggai. After their return from the captivity in Babylon, the Jews undertook to rebuild the temple of the Lord; but meeting determined opposition from their enemies, they discontinued the work; and a severe drought, by which they were reduced to actual want, convinced them that it was impossible to complete the building of the temple.

11) What did God tell them through Haggai?
Haggai 1:4-6 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste? Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways. Ye have sown much, and bring in _____; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with _____.

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Haggai 1:9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to _____; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of hosts. Because of mine house that is _____, and ye run every man unto his own house.
Haggai 1:10-11 Therefore the heaven over you is _____ from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit. And I called for a _____ upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

12) What happened when they went back to work for the LORD?
Haggai 2:18-19 Consider now from this day and upward, from the four and twentieth day of the ninth month, even from the day that the _____ of the LORD'S temple was laid, consider it. Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I _____ you.

13) What did Solomon tell us?
Proverbs 11:24 There is that scattereth, and yet _____; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

14) How did Paul say the same thing?
2 Corinthians 9:6 But this I say, He which soweth _____ shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

God intended that His people Israel should be light bearers to all the inhabitants of the earth. In maintaining His public worship they were bearing a testimony to the existence and sovereignty of the living God. And this worship it was their privilege to sustain, as an expression of their loyalty and their love to Him. The Lord has ordained that the diffusion of light and truth in the earth shall be dependent upon the efforts and offerings of those who are partakers of the heavenly gift.

15) What did Jesus have to say about it?
Luke 12:48 For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much _____: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.
Matthew 10:8 …freely ye have received, freely _____.

As our blessings and privileges are increased—above all, as we have before us the unparalleled sacrifice of the glorious Son of God—should not our gratitude find expression in more abundant gifts to extend to others the message of salvation?

16) How does God feel about our service?
1 Samuel 2:30 …for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

God has made men His stewards. The property which He has placed in their hands is the means that He has provided for the spread of the gospel. To those who prove themselves faithful stewards He will commit greater trusts.

Can you see that God chose you to be part of the sharing of the Gospel?

Would you like to be blessed?

When is it time to return His portion?

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