



# Way of the Eagle

by Rhoda Collins

## TITHING

**T**ithing began with Cain and Abel and is a principle that should be continued by every Christian today.

Many would say that tithing was a law of Moses that was abolished with all laws when Jesus came, but was it?

**Genesis 4:7** indicates that a tithing expectation was set in motion at the time man was created, long before Moses.

**Genesis 4:3-7** says, "In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.

Then the LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry? Why is your face downcast? If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

What is clear is that sin occurred because Cain was greedy and did not give God what was required.

Paul mentions Cain's sin in **Hebrews 11:4**. He said Abel gave a more "excellent" sacrifice than Cain. The correct translation of the word "excellent" means "abundant," that is, greater in quantity proportionally than Cain. What is clearly inferred is that Cain sinned when he held back the portion of what was due God. He did not rightly divide his increase.

The Bible warns us about the "way of Cain" in **Jude 11**.

We know also from Abraham and Jacob that tithing did not begin with Moses on Mount Sinai.

And we know that tithing was practiced 430 years before the Law of Moses, "This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything". **Hebrews 7:1-2a**

Tithing was commanded under the Law of Moses in **Leviticus 27:30** "A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD."

Tithing under the law of Moses has 5 purposes:

- 1) Commanded: **Leviticus 27:30**
- 2) For priests: **Numbers 18:26** "Speak to the Levites and say to them: When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I give you as your inheritance, you must present a tenth of that tithe as the LORD's offering". See also **Nehemiah 10:37**
- 3) Tithes of the tithes every 3 years for the poor and the ministers: **Deuteronomy 14:27-29** "And do not neglect the Levites living in your towns, for they have no allotment or inheritance of their own. <sup>28</sup>At the end of every three years, bring all the tithes of that year's produce and store it in your towns, <sup>29</sup>so that the Levites (who have no allotment or inheritance of their own) and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns may come and eat and be satisfied, and so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands".

- 4) To supply God's house: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it". Malachi 3:10-11
- 5) To honor God: "Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine". Pr. 3: 9-10

Tithes were brought yearly with all the other offerings for the feast; "But you are to seek the place the LORD your God will choose from among all your tribes to put his Name there for his dwelling. To that place you must go; there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. There, in the presence of the LORD your God, you and your families shall eat and shall rejoice in everything you have put your hand to, because the LORD your God has blessed you" Deuteronomy 12:5-7.

If you didn't have your tithes you borrowed it at a 20% interest. "No person devoted to destruction may be ransomed; they are to be put to death. 'A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD. Whoever would redeem any of their tithe must add a fifth of the value to it". Leviticus 27:29-31

As we see in the Old Testament tithing was an acceptable and required practise from the beginning on mankind, but did it change during and after Jesus?

In the New Testament Christ taught about tithing in [Matthew 23:23](#), [Luke 11:42](#) and [Luke 18:11-12](#). He never said it was no longer required.

Paul taught tithing after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Robbing temples was condemned in [Romans 2:22](#), which means you are cursed if you rob from God [Malachi 3:8-10](#). God ordained support of ministries/assemblies in [1 Corinthians 9:7-14](#) and [1 Corinthians 16:1-2](#).

God promises that the fruits of your tithing protect you from the devourer and you will be blessed with material and spiritual things ([Malachi 3-8-10](#), [Proverbs 3:9-10](#)).

Tithing is proof of God's blessings and appreciating of God's blessings [Genesis 14:20](#), [Malachi 3:8-10](#), [Corinthians 9:7](#), and [Hebrews 7:6-10](#).

There are many people that I met in my walk with God that did not tithe, including many leaders who taught people not to tithe. People just gave whatever offerings they felt like giving, if any. This robbed God and robbed them of many blessings!

Or the reverse takes place by hypocrites. For example when Jesus rebuked the Pharisees in [Luke 11:42](#), "Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone". Pharisees (leaders in today's churches) tithe out of religious showing off to people, not out of obedience to God or out of love. Or people just dump money into their spiritually dead church or support a TVangelist religious guru's lifestyle, thinking that's what God wants!

We Christians are commanded by God to tithe not because God needs our 10% but as an act of obedience and because God wants to bless us with all that He has. Remember He gave us 100%!

Let God prove to you that He will bless you beyond your imagination! Tithe as He directs!