

RUSSELL SANDERS

1-25-2021

TO GIVE AND BE GIVEN – LESSON 3

THE TITHES – PART 1 – ABRAHAM

The word “tithe” means one-tenth. It is the same as ten percent. What does God’s Word say about it?

Malachi 3:8-11 makes it clear that the tithe belongs to God and to God alone. It is not yours. He gives you the ninety percent on which to live.

I shall teach on the Malachi passage a little later, but first let us establish some biblical history on it. We shall also refute the false idea that tithing is “Old Testament Law”, and we are no longer under the “law” but under “grace” instead.

The first record of the tithe being given was more than 400 years before God gave Moses “the law.” It is told in Genesis 14:18-19 as Abram (Abraham) was returning with great spoil from his victory over five Babylonian kings.

On his return Abram was met by Melchizedek, the “priest of the Most High God.” It is written about very clearly in the New Testament in Hebrews 7:1-6 that Melchizedek was not born of human parents nor did he die. He remains a “priest” forever and is called the “King of Righteousness,” the “King of Salem” (future Jeru-Salem) and the “King of Peace”, all of which are titles of Jesus. Melchizedek was a pre-incarnate form of Jesus. Jesus was called a “High Priest after the order (line) of Melchizedek.” (Hebrews 5:6 and 6:20.)

Just as Jesus at “the last supper” held “communion” with his disciples with the bread and wine, so also did Melchizedek bring bread and wine to have communion with Abraham, the “father of multitudes (nations).” This high priest from God blessed Abram who recognized his holiness.

Abram responded by giving Melchizedek a tithe of everything he had. Melchizedek was” God’s storehouse” into which Abraham tithed.

Tomorrow we will pursue Old Testament teaching on the tithe.