

The background of the top section is a close-up, slightly blurred image of Michelangelo's famous fresco, 'The Creation of Adam'. It shows the hands of God and Adam reaching toward each other, with the fingers just inches apart. The text is overlaid on this image.

# Abraham's Covenant

## *The Origins of Tithing*

5/25/2025

### **Review from last Sunday:**

- a. In the NT - Love and Giving are tied together.**
- b. Giving is an expression of our Love.**
- c. God tests our Love for him by looking at our Giving.**  
**(Financial and Otherwise)**

**The 3 main ways of financial giving.**

**A. Tithes, Offerings, and Alms.**

**1. Tithes: Giving a tenth of our Increase / Profit.**

## Matthew 23:23 (NKJV)

**23 Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.**

## Tithes (G587)

**“from 575 and 1183; to tithe (as debtor or creditor):--(give, pay, take) tithe.”**

**(G1183)**

**“from 1181; to tithe, i.e. to give or take a tenth:--pay (receive) tithes.”**

**(G1181)**

**“feminine of 1182; a tenth, i.e. as a percentage or (technically) tithe:--tenth (part), tithe.”**

## **2. Offerings.**

**Luke 21:1-4 (NKJV)**

**1 And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, 2 and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. 3 So He said, Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; 4 for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings (G1435) for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.**

**Acts 24:17 (NKJV)**

**17 Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings (G4376) to my nation,**

**“Offerings”**

**(G1435)**

**“a present; specially, a sacrifice:--gift, offering.”**

**(G4376)**

**“from 4374; presentation; concretely, an oblation (bloodless) or sacrifice:-- offering (up).”**

### 3. “Alms”

**Acts 24:17 (NKJV)**

**17 Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation,**

**Matthew 6:1-4 (KJV)**

**1 Take heed that ye do not your alms (NKJV - “Charitable Deeds”) before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.**

**3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.**

**“Alms” - (G1654)**

**“from 1656; compassionateness, i.e. (as exercised towards the poor) beneficence, or (concretely) a benefaction:--alms(-deeds).”**

**Tithes**: The 10% of our income that we return to God.

**Offerings**: Any amount given to God's work that is not the Tithe. (projects, special speakers, etc.)

**Alms**: Any amount given, typically to help someone and often given directly to the person. It is not the Tithe. Typically given to help someone in need.

**When did Tithing start?**

**Genesis 14:18-20 (NKJV)**

**18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tithe of all.**



**Here is the beginning of Tithing:**

**1. Who was Melchizedek:**

**“The priest of God most High”.**

**2. What was Melchizedek celebrating with Abram?**

**The defeat of Abram’s enemies.**

### **3. How were they celebrating that victory?**

**Celebrating the Covenant.**

**(Bread & Wine - Communion)**

### **4. In the Celebration, Blessings were spoken by the Priest / Official Representative of God.**

**The Reciprocation to the Blessing by Abraham was him Giving the Tithe.**

**Tithing hasn't changed since Abraham,  
because it flows out of Abraham's Covenant.**

**As a signifier of the Covenant, Abraham  
initiated Tithing.**

**We are still under Abraham's Covenant.**

**Remember: the dividing point of the cross.**

- a. Stopped at the cross**
- b. Changed at the cross but came  
through**
- c. Came through the cross - unchanged.**

**Tithing came through the cross - unchanged.**

**What has changed from the O.T. to the N.T. is the motivation of it.**

- a. From it being enforced as a law.**
- b. To it being an expression of Love.**

**Isn't Tithing a part of the O.T. Law?**

**A. Yes, but it was first introduced by Abraham. (Previous PP)**

- 1. It actually fits under the Abrahamic Covenant.**

**The concept of an individual being able to participate in a Covenant with God came through Abraham's Covenant.**

**Tithing is directly tied to that Covenant.**

**Abraham's Covenant brought life to all who believe.**

**The law didn't give life, it pointed out our sin and our guilt - which actually confirmed we were dead in trespasses and sins and needed a Savior.**

## **Romans 3:19-20 (NIV)**

**19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.**

**The Covenant that brings life and blessing is Abraham's Covenant.**

**Did you know that it seems God had not intended to set up Moses Covenant? The Law.**

## **Galatians 3:15-19 (NIV)**

**15** Brothers, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. **16** The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say and to seeds, meaning many people, but and to your seed, meaning one person, who is Christ.

**The promises were spoken to Abraham and Jesus.**

- Everyone else gains access to them through Jesus' Covenant.**

**17 What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. 18 For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on a promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.**

**19 What, then, was the purpose of the law? It was added because of transgressions until the Seed to whom the promise referred had come. The law was put into effect through angels by a mediator.**



## **Galatians 3:19 (AMP)**

**19 What then was the purpose of the Law? It was added [later on, after the promise, to disclose and expose to men their guilt] because of transgressions and [to make men more conscious of the sinfulness] of sin; and it was intended to be in effect until the Seed (the Descendant, the Heir) should come, to and concerning Whom the promise had been made. ....**

## **Galatians 3:21-22 (NIV)**

**21 Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. 22 But the Scripture declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.**

**So, I repeat: The Covenant that brings Life and Blessing is Abraham's Covenant, and is extended to the world through Jesus.**

**Genesis 15:18 (NIV)**

**18 On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram.....**

**By faith, we are brought into Abraham's Covenant and have become Abraham's spiritual children, able to receive his inheritance.**

**Romans 4:11-17 (NIV)**

**11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them.**

**12 And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised. 13 It was not through law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. 14 For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless,**

**15 because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. 16 Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.**

**17 As it is written: I have made you a father of many nations. He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.**

**Romans 4:21 (NIV)**

**21 being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.**

**Romans 9:8 (NIV)**

**8 In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.**

## **Galatians 3:14 (NIV)**

**14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.**

## **The Big 4 Covenants.**

- a. Noah's Covenant - is still in affect.**
  - b. Abraham's Covenant - is still in affect.**
  - c. Moses Covenant - no longer in affect.**
    - > It was replaced by Jesus' Covenant.**
  - d. Jesus' Covenant - is still in affect.**
    - > It is built on Abraham's Covenant. It's an extension of it.**
- (Galatians 3:14)**

**Scriptures that say Moses Covenant is no longer in affect for christians. Jesus fulfilled it.**

**a. The Law was Only Until Christ:**

**- Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:10-14; 19, 25; 4:8-11; Ephesians 2:15; Colossians 2:14-15; Hebrews 7:18; 8:13; 9:8-10; 10:4, 9.**

**b. The Law was Annulled (Ephesians 2:15; Hebrews 7:18)**

**- It was Set Aside because it was Weak and Useless. (Hebrews 7:18)**

- **Fault was found with it. (Hebrews 8:7-8)**
- **It is now Obsolete. (Hebrews 8:13)**
- **It was Set Aside to make room for the New Covenant. (Hebrews 10:9)**

- **It was Abolished. (Ephesians 2:15)**
- **It was Cancelled. (Colossians 2:14)**



**- To Belong to / be married to Christ,  
we have to die to the Law.  
(Romans 7:4)**

**Abraham's Covenant.**

**Covenant - What does it mean to be in  
Covenant?**

**To be in Covenant means that everything I am before or without Christ (or, the other person) must die. (Pictured in the death walk)**

**I have taken on that persons identity. I am no longer my own / who I used to be. I am now a new person with a new identity.**

**I have given my personal rights - to the other person. They can ask any righteous thing of me, and I am obligated by Covenant - to give it to them.**

**Everything I am and ever will be - now belongs to the other person.  
(The Great Exchange)**

**In the O.T., God laid down certain laws concerning property, and finances. The Tithe was one of them.**

- 1. This was to continue what was initiated in Abraham's Covenant.**
- 2. And they were all pictures / types of the coming Messiah - Jesus. (This is Important)**

**In the N.T., God set aside all those laws for 2 commands both of them are built on Love. (Remember: from God's perspective, true giving flows out of Love)**

**We are in Covenant with God, so everything we are and have is his. And everything he is and has is ours (heirs).**

**(The Great Exchange)**

# **Everything is HIS, and Everything is OURS by Covenant / Inheritance.**

- 1. The working relationship with physical things that is now established is that we are Stewards / Servants over everything that is Gods. Everything is available to us, as God chooses, and as we choose with him.**
  - Genesis 1 & 2; Psalms 8:6-8; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2**

## **Application:**

**Everything we think we own actually belongs to God. We are stewards / servants of God taking care of it.**

**That's why he has the right to ask for everything, even our very life.**

**As believers, he owns it. He Redeemed it  
(Bought it back) with his Blood. He now  
owns us. We are legally his servants, which  
God has chosen to restore the rights of a son  
and the Kingdom to us.**

**Psalms 24:1 (NKJV)**

**1 The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell therein.**

**Psalms 50:10-12 (NKJV)**

**10 For every beast of the forest is Mine, And  
the cattle on a thousand hills. 11 I know all  
the birds of the mountains, And the wild  
beasts of the field are Mine. 12 If I were  
hungry, I would not tell you; For the world is  
Mine, and all its fullness.**

**Haggai 2:8 (NKJV)**

**8 The silver is Mine, and the gold is Mine,  
says the LORD of hosts.**

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NKJV)**

**19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.**

**1 Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)**

**18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**

## **John 17:9-10 (NKJV)**

**9 I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. 10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.**

**The Earth and Everyone / Everything in it is the Lord's.**

**(Psalm 24:1)**

**The Heavens belong to God. (Deuteronomy 10:14; Ps. 115:16)**

**The first born of Israel, both men and animals belong to the Lord and need to be physically redeemed. (Exodus 13:11-13; Numbers 3:13)**

**Interpretation of Dreams belong to the Lord.  
(Genesis 40:8)**

**The Israelites belong to God. (Leviticus  
25:55)**

**The Secret things belong to the Lord.  
(Deuteronomy 29:29)**

**Wisdom, Power, Counsel, Understanding  
belong to God. (Job 12:13)**

**Strength, Victory, the Deceived, and the  
Deceiver belong to God. (Job 12:16)**

**Eternal Praise belongs to the Lord. (Psalms  
111:10)**



**Dominion and Awe belong to the Lord.**

**(Job. 25:2; Psalms 22:28)**

**The Day of Vengeance belongs to the Lord.**

**(Jeremiah 46:10)**

**The Levites belong to the Lord.**

**(Numbers 3:12)**

**The Kings / Shields of the earth belong to the Lord.**

**(Psalms 47:9; 89:18)**

**The Mountain Peaks belong to God.**

**(Psalms 95:4)**

**Every Living Soul belongs to the Lord.  
(Ezekiel 18:4)**

**The Words Jesus spoke belong to the Father.  
(John 14:24)**

**Salvation, Glory, Power belong to God.  
(Revelation 7:10; 19:1)**

**And Guess What:**

**The Tithe belongs to the Lord.  
(Leviticus 27:30)**

## **When dealing with Covenant Principles:**

- The person who has been Blessed in Covenant, is obligated to Reciprocate and return some thing financially to the Blessor.**

**God chose the 'Tithe' to be the Reciprocating item.**

- He said it belongs to him.**

## **Why does the Tithe belong to the Lord?**

**As far as I know, all that is said is:**

**- It's Holy to him. (Lev. 27:30)**

**Being Holy to him - it needs to be Holy to us.**

- a. Holy for those who give it.**
- b. Holy for those who receive it.**

## **Abraham Tithed.**

**This principle has been consistent for any one who is in Covenant with God, from Abraham's time - all the way to us.**

**Like Abraham, because of the Covenants we're in, Tithing is us reciprocating on the Blessings that have been given to us - through Jesus.**

- a. Through Abraham's / Jesus' Covenants: we are Blessed / Empowered to Prosper.**
- b. Through us - God's purpose and Kingdom is empowered to Prosper.**
- c. It's one of the ways Covenant is the 'Great Exchange'. (Explain)**