

What Christian Israelites Believe ...

15. About Tithing

Tithing – the giving of ten percent of one’s earnings to the church and God – was first mentioned as offering up the “first fruits” of the harvest to God:

“The first of the first fruits of thy land thou shalt bring into the house of the Lord thy God.” Exodus 23:19.

It became a more formal instruction that God gave to Moses on Mount Horeb (Sinai) (along with numerous other laws and commandments):

“And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord’s: it is holy unto the Lord. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the Lord.” Leviticus 27:30-32.

Tithing was done as a sign of respect to God:

“Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the Lord thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the Lord thy God always.” Deuteronomy 14:22-23.

Tithing gave God’s people a way to do his work and support those in the community who were disadvantaged, and was also as a form of worship, thanksgiving, and obedience:

“And now, behold, I have brought the first fruits of the land, which thou, O Lord, hast given me. And thou shalt set it before the Lord thy God, and worship before the Lord thy God: And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you. When thou hast made an end of tithing all the tithes of thine increase the third year, which is the year of tithing, and hast given it unto the Levite, the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, that they may eat within thy gates, and be filled; Then thou shalt say before the Lord thy God, I have brought away the hallowed things out of mine house, and

also have given them unto the Levite, and unto the stranger, to the fatherless, and to the widow, according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me: I have not transgressed thy commandments, neither have I forgotten them.” Deuteronomy 26:10-13.

The Bible tells us that tithing brings prosperity and a blessing to those who give it:

“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, 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 blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” Malachi 3:10.

“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.” Proverbs 3:9-10.

Paul also taught that giving brings a blessing, but pointed out that the heart with which we give is just as important as the act of giving:

“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:6-8.

Christian Israelites believe that by giving a tenth of our earnings to God and the church, we gratefully acknowledge that everything we have is given to us by him, and show him that he is a higher priority to us than our wealth and possessions:

“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” Matthew 6:19-21.

As such, Christian Israelites believe that tithing is important in keeping our hearts right with God, in showing him obedience and thanksgiving, and in allowing the church do the work that he set us out to do (see *What Christian Israelites Believe About the Mission of the Church*).