

LESSON 4: First Fruit and Different Types of Giving in the Bible.

Assignments: - Read pages 15-18 in Giving God's Way
- Get a free credit report (www.annualcreditreport.com)

1. According to these Old Testament passages the Israelites were commanded to give God the _____ of their crops and the _____ of their livestock?

"Also you shall observe the Feast of the Harvest of the first fruits of your labors from what you sow in the field; also the Feast of the Ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in the fruit of your labors from the field. (Exodus 23:16)

"If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, he is to offer a male without defect. He must present it at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting so that it will be acceptable to the LORD. (Leviticus 1:3)

Why would God require these attributes of sacrifices to Him?

How did the giver practice faith when giving this way? Why?

2. Given the answers in question one, what do you think this New Testament passage is calling Christians to do? Why?

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. (1 Corinthians 16:2)

3. According to the passage below, how would you define a tithe? What was Abram returning from when he met Melchizedek? Why did Abram give a gift to Melchizedek?

Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, [19] and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. [20] And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:18-20)

4. From the Old Testament times through when the New Testament was written people lived in a subsistence economy. The work they did today provided the food for tomorrow. In biblical times when a family gave a tenth of what they had it required the people to _____ God for their food on the next day.

5. According to the passage below, what does the New Testament have to say about tithing?

"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices--mint, dill and cummin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law--justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. (Matthew 23:23)

6. According to the passage below, how are you supposed to give? If your means increase what is supposed to happen to your giving? If your means decrease what is supposed to happen to your giving?

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. (2 Corinthians 8:12)

7. The New Testament promotes proportionate giving. In question four we learned that people had to trust God for things that they needed when they tithed. Tithing was a method to build the faith of the giver. How would that apply to proportionate giving today? What is generous giving if you are on welfare? What is generous giving if you make \$1 billion each year?

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)