~TITHE (714)

- " Mosaic Tithing Laws
- " No Tithing For Christians
- A tenth part, or 10 percent, given or paid as a tribute, especially for religious purposes.
- The Bible tells of two instances prior to the setting up of the Law covenant in which a tenth part of possessions was paid to God or to his representative. The first of these was on the occasion when Abraham gave Melchizedek one tenth of the spoils of his victory over Chedorlaomer and his allies.
- And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine, and he was priest of the Most High God. (Genesis 14:18)
- Then he blessed him and said; Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, producer of heaven and earth. (Genesis 14:19)
- And blessed be the Most High God, who has delivered your oppressors into your hand! At that Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (Genesis 14:20)
- The apostle Paul cites this incident as proof that Christ's priesthood according to the manner of Melchizedek is superior to that of Levi, since Levi, being in the loins of Abraham, paid tithes, in effect, to Melchizedek.
- Behold, then, how great this man was to whom Abraham, the family head, gave a tenth out of the chief spoils. (Hebrews 7:4)
- True, the men from the sons of Levi who receive their priestly office have a commandment to collect tithes from the people according to the Law, that is, from their brothers, even if these have issued from the loins of Abraham. (Hebrews 7:5)
- But the man who did not trace his genealogy from them took tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. (Hebrews 7:6)
- Now without any dispute, the less is blessed by the greater. (Hebrews 7:7)

- And in the one case it is men who are dying that receive tithes, but in the other case it is someone of whom it is witnessed that he lives. (Hebrews 7:8)
- And, if I may use the expression, through Abraham even Levi who receives tithes has paid tithes. (Hebrews 7:9)
- For he was still in the loins of his forefather when Melchizedek met him. (Hebrews 7:10)
- The second case concerned Jacob, who vowed at Bethel to give one tenth of his substance to God.
- And Jacob went on to vow a vow, saying; If God will continue with me and will certainly keep me on this way on which I am going and will certainly give me bread to eat and garments to wear (Genesis 28:20)
- And I shall certainly return in peace to the house of my father, then Yehowah will have proved to be my God. (Genesis 28:21)
- And this stone that I have set up as a pillar will become a house of God, and as for everything that you will give me I shall without fail give the tenth of it to you. (Genesis 28:22)
- These two accounts, however, are merely instances of voluntarily giving one tenth. There is no record to the effect that Abraham or Jacob commanded their descendants to follow such examples, thereby establishing a religious practice, custom, or law.
- It would have been superfluous for Jacob, if already under a compulsory obligation to pay tithes, to vow to do so, as he did. It is therefore evident that the tithing arrangement was not a custom or a Law among the early Hebrews. It was instituted with the inauguration of the Law covenant, not before.

... Mosaic Tithing Laws

Yehowah gave Israel tithing Laws for definite purposes, apparently involving the use of two tenths of their annual income, except during the Sabbath years, when no tithe was paid, since no income was anticipated.

- And Yehowah spoke further to Moses in Mount Sinai, saying;
 (Leviticus 25:1)
- Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; When you eventually come into the land that I am giving you, then the land must observe a Sabbath to Yehowah. (Leviticus 25:2)
- Six years you should sow your field with seed, and six years you should prune your vineyard, and you must gather the lands produce. (Leviticus 25:3)
- But in the seventh year there should occur a Sabbath of complete rest for the land, a Sabbath to Yehowah. Your field you must not sow with seed, and your vineyard you must not prune. (Leviticus 25:4)
- The growth from spilled kernels of your harvest you must not reap, and the grapes of your unpruned vine you must not gather. There should occur a year of complete rest for the land. (Leviticus 25:5)
- And the Sabbath of the land must serve you people for food, for you and your slave man and your slave girl and your hired laborer and the settler with you, those who are residing as aliens with you. (Leviticus 25:6)
- And for your domestic animal and for the wild beast that is in your land. All its produce should serve for eating. (Leviticus 25:7)
- And you must count for yourself seven Sabbaths of years, seven times seven years, and the days of the seven Sabbaths of years must amount to forty-nine years for you. (Leviticus 25:8)
- And you must cause the horn of loud tone to sound in the seventh month on the tenth of the month, on the day of atonement you people should cause the horn to sound in all your land. (Leviticus 25:9)
- And you must sanctify the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty in the land to all its inhabitants. It will become a Jubilee for you, and you must return each one to his possession and you should return each one to his family. (Leviticus 25:10)

- A Jubilee is what that fiftieth year will become for you. You must not sow seed nor reap the lands growth from spilled kernels nor gather the grapes of its unpruned vines. (Leviticus 25:11)
- For it is a Jubilee. It should become something holy to you. From the field you may eat what the land produces. (Leviticus 25:12)
- However, some scholars believe there was only one tithe. Such tithes were in addition to the firstfruits they were under obligation to offer to Yehowah.
- The best of the first ripe fruits of your ground you are to bring to the house of Yehowah your God. You must not boil a kid in its mothers milk. (Exodus 23:19)
- The best of the first ripe fruits of your soil you are to bring to the house of Yehowah your God. You must not boil a kid in its mothers milk. (Exodus 34:26)
- The first tithe, consisting of one tenth of the produce of the land and fruit trees and, evidently of the increase, of the herds and flocks, was brought to the sanctuary and given to the Levites, since they had no inheritance in the land but were devoted to the service of the sanctuary.
- And every tenth part of the land, out of the seed of the land and the fruit of the tree, belongs to Yehowah. It is something holy to Yehowah. (Leviticus 27:30)
- And if a man wants to buy any of his tenth part back at all, he should give a fifth of it in addition to it. (Leviticus 27:31)
- As for every tenth part of the herd and flock, everything that passes under the crook, the tenth head should become something holy to Yehowah. (Leviticus 27:32)
- And to the sons of Levi, look! I have given every tenth part in Israel as an inheritance in return for their service that they are carrying on, the service of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 18:21)
- And to the sons of Levi, look! I have given every tenth part in Israel as an inheritance in return for their service that they are carrying on, the service of the tent of meeting. (Numbers 18:21)

- The Levites, in turn, gave a tenth of what they received to the Aaronic priesthood for their support.
- Then Yehowah spoke to Moses, saying; (Numbers 18:25)
- And you should speak to the Levites, and you must say to them, you will receive from the sons of Israel the tenth part that I have given to you from them for your inheritance, and you must contribute from it as a contribution to Yehowah a tenth part of the tenth part. (Numbers 18:26)
- And it must be reckoned to you as your contribution, like the grain of the threshing floor and like the full produce of the wine or oil press. (Numbers 18:27)
- In this way you yourselves also will contribute a contribution to Yehowah from all your tenth parts that you will receive from the sons of Israel, and from them you must give the contribution to Yehowah to Aaron the priest. (Numbers 18:28)
- From all the gifts to you, you will contribute every sort of contribution to Yehowah, of the very best of it, as some holy thing from them. (Numbers 18:29)
- Evidently the grain was threshed and the fruit of the vine and of the olive tree was converted into wine and oil before tithing.
- And you must say to them; When you contribute the best of them, then it will certainly be reckoned to the Levites as the produce of the threshing floor and as the produce of the wine or oil press. (Numbers 18:30)
- Also, the firstfruits of our coarse meal and our contributions and the fruitage of every sort of tree, new wine and oil we should bring to the priests to the dining halls of the house of our God, also the tenth from our soil to the Levites, as they, the Levites, are the ones receiving a tenth in all our agricultural cities. (Nehemiah 10:37)
- If an Israelite wished to give money instead of this produce, he could do so, provided he added an additional fifth to the valuation.
- And if a man wants to buy any of his tenth part back at all, he

should give a fifth of it in addition to it. (Leviticus 27:31)

- But it was different with the flock and the herd. As the animals came out of the pen one by one through a gate, the owner stood by the gate with a rod and marked every tenth one as the tithe, without examination or selection.
- As for every tenth part of the herd and flock, everything that passes under the crook, the tenth head should become something holy to Yehowah. (Leviticus 27:32)
- He should not examine whether it is good or bad, neither should he exchange it. But if he would exchange it at all, it itself must then become and what is exchanged for it should become something holy. It may not be bought back. (Leviticus 27:33)
- It seems there was an additional tithe, a second tenth, set aside each year for purposes other than the direct support of the Levitical priesthood, though the Levites shared in it.
- Normally it was used and enjoyed in large measure by the Israelite family when assembling together at the national festivals. In cases where the distance to Jerusalem was too great for the convenient transport of this tithe, then the produce was converted into money and this, in turn, was used in Jerusalem for the households sustenance and enjoyment during the holy convention there.
- You must not do that way to Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 12:4)
- But to the place that Yehowah your God will choose out of all your tribes to place his name there, to have it reside, you will seek, and there you must come. (Deuteronomy 12:5)
- And there you must bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices and your tenth parts and the contribution of your hand and your vow offerings and your voluntary offerings and the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock. (Deuteronomy 12:6)
- And there you must eat before Yehowah your God and rejoice in every undertaking of yours, you and your households, because Yehowah your God has blessed you. (Deuteronomy 12:7)
- And it must occur that the place that Yehowah your God will

choose to have his name reside there is where you will bring all about which I am commanding you, your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tenth parts and the contribution of your hand and every choice of your vow offerings that you will vow to Yehowah. (Deuteronomy 12:11)

- You will not be allowed to eat inside your gates the tenth part of your grain or of your new wine or of your oil or the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock or any of your vow offerings that you will vow or your voluntary offerings or the contribution of your hand. (Deuteronomy 12:17)
- But before Yehowah your God you will eat it, in the place that Yehowah your God will choose, you and your son and your daughter and your man slave and your slave girl and the Levite who is inside your gates, and you must rejoice before Yehowah your God in every undertaking of yours. (Deuteronomy 12:18)
- Without fail you should give a tenth of all the produce of your seed, that which comes forth of the field year by year. (Deuteronomy 14:22)
- And before Yehowah your God, in the place that he will choose to have his name reside there, you must eat the tenth part of your grain, your new wine and your oil and the firstborn ones of your herd and of your flock, in order, that you may learn to fear Yehowah your God always. (Deuteronomy 14:23)
- Now in case the journey should be too long for you, because you will not be able to carry it, since the place that Yehowah your God will choose to place his name there will be too far away for you, because Yehowah your God will bless you. (Deuteronomy 14:24)
- You must then turn it into money, and you must wrap the money up in your hand and travel to the place that Yehowah your God will choose. (Deuteronomy 14:25)
- You must also give the money for whatever your soul may crave in the way of cattle and sheep and goats and wine and intoxicating liquor and anything that your soul may ask of you, and you must eat there before Yehowah your God and rejoice, you and your household. (Deuteronomy 14:26)

- And the Levite who is inside your gates, you must not abandon him, for he has no share or inheritance with you. (Deuteronomy 14:27)
- Then, at the end of every third and sixth years of the seven-year sabbatical cycle, this tithe, instead of being used to defray expenses at the national assemblies, was set aside for the Levites, alien residents, widows, and fatherless boys in the local community.
- At the end of three years you will bring out the entire tenth part of your produce in that year, and you must deposit it inside your gates. (Deuteronomy 14:28)
- And the Levite, because he has no share or inheritance with you, and the alien resident and the fatherless boy and the widow, who are inside your gates, must come, and they must eat and satisfy themselves, in order, that Yehowah your God may bless you in every deed of your hand that you will do. (Deuteronomy 14:29)
- When you finish with tithing the entire tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tenth, you must also give it to the Levite, the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the widow, and they must eat it within your gates and satisfy themselves.

 (Deuteronomy 26:12)
- These tithing Laws binding on Israel were not excessive. Nor should it be overlooked that God promised to prosper Israel by opening the floodgates of the heavens, if his tithing Laws were obeyed.
- Bring all the tenth parts into the storehouse, that there may come to be food in my house, and test me out, please, in this respect, Yehowah of armies has said, whether I shall not open to you people the floodgates of the heavens and actually empty out upon you a blessing until there is no more want. (Malachi 3:10)
- And it must occur that if you will without fail listen to the voice of Yehowah your God by being careful to do all his commandments that I am commanding you today, Yehowah your God also will certainly put you high above all other nations of the earth. (Deuteronomy 28:1)
- And all these blessings must come upon you and overtake you, because you keep listening to the voice of Yehowah your God. (Deuteronomy 28:2)

- Yehowah will also make you overflow indeed with prosperity in the fruit of your belly and the fruit of your domestic animals and the fruitage of your ground, on the ground that Yehowah swore to your forefathers to give you. (Deuteronomy 28:11)
- Yehowah will open up to you his good storehouse, the heavens, to give the rain on your land in its season and to bless every deed of your hand, and you will certainly lend to many nations, while you yourself will not borrow. (Deuteronomy 28:12)
- And Yehowah will indeed put you at the head and not at the tail, and you must come to be only on top, and you will not come to be on the bottom, because you keep obeying the commandments of Yehowah your God, which I am commanding you today to observe and to do. (Deuteronomy 28:13)
- And you must not turn aside from all the words that I am commanding you today, to the right or to the left, to walk after other gods to serve them. (Deuteronomy 28:14)
- When the people became negligent as to tithing, the priesthood suffered, for the priests and Levites were forced to spend their time in secular work and consequently neglected their ministerial services.
- And I got to find out that the very portions of the Levites had not been given them, so that the Levites and the singers doing the work went running off, each one to his own field. (Nehemiah 13:10)
- Such unfaithfulness tended to bring about a decline in true worship. Sadly, when the ten tribes fell away to calf worship, they used the tithe to support that false religion.
- Come, you people, to Bethel and commit transgression. At Gilgal be frequent in committing transgression, and bring your sacrifices in the morning, on the third day, your tenth parts. (Amos 4:4)
- And from what is leavened make a thanksgiving sacrifice to smoke, and proclaim voluntary offerings, publish it, for that is the way you have loved, O sons of Israel, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (Amos 4:5)

- On the other hand, when Israel was faithful to Yehowah and was under the rule of righteous administrators, tithing for the Levites was restored, and true to Yehowah's promise, there were no shortages.
- Furthermore, he said to the people, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to give the portion of the priests and of the Levites, in order, that they might adhere strictly to the Law of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 31:4)
- And as soon as the word broke forth, the sons of Israel increased the firstfruits of the grain, new wine, and oil and honey and all the produce of the field, and the tenth of everything they brought in abundantly. (2 Chronicles 31:5)
- And the sons of Israel and of Judah that were dwelling in the cities of Judah, even they themselves brought in the tenth of cattle and sheep and the tenth of the holy things, the things sanctified to Yehowah their God. They brought in and so gave heaps upon heaps. (2 Chronicles 31:6)
- In the third month they started the heaps by laying the lowest layer, and in the seventh month they finished. (2 Chronicles 31:7)
- When Hezekiah and the princes came and saw the heaps, they proceeded to bless Yehowah and his people Israel. (2 Chronicles 31:8)
- In time Hezekiah inquired of the priests and the Levites concerning the heaps. (2 Chronicles 31:9)
- Then Azariah the chief priest of the house of Zadok said to him, yes, he said; From the time they started to bring the contribution into the house of Yehowah there has been an eating and getting satisfied and having a surplus in abundance, for Yehowah himself has blessed his people, and what has been left over is this great plenty. (2 Chronicles 31:10)
- At this Hezekiah said to prepare dining rooms in the house of Yehowah. Accordingly they prepared them. (2 Chronicles 31:11)
- And they kept bringing in the contribution and the tenth and the holy things in faithfulness, and Conaniah the Levite was in charge of them as leader, and Shimei his brother was second. (2)

Chronicles 31:12)

- Also, the firstfruits of our coarse meal and our contributions and the fruitage of every sort of tree, new wine and oil we should bring to the priests to the dining halls of the house of our God, also the tenth from our soil to the Levites, as they, the Levites, are the ones receiving a tenth in all our agricultural cities. (Nehemiah 10:37)
- And the priest, the son of Aaron, must prove to be with the Levites when the Levites receive a tenth, and the Levites themselves should offer up a tenth of the tenth to the house of our God to the dining halls of the supply house. (Nehemiah 10:38)
- Further, there were appointed on that day men over the halls for the stores, for the contributions, for the firstfruits and for the tenths, to gather into them out of the fields of the cities the portions called for by the Law for the priests and the Levites, for the rejoicing of Judah was because of the priests and of the Levites who were in attendance. (Nehemiah 12:44)
- And I began to find fault with the deputy rulers and say; Why has the house of the true God been neglected? Consequently I collected them together and stationed them at their standing place. (Nehemiah 13:11)
- And all Judah, for their part, brought in the tenth of the grain and of the new wine and of the oil to the stores. (Nehemiah 13:12)
- Then I put Shelemiah the priest and Zadok the copyist and Pedaiah of the Levites in charge of the stores, and under their control there was Hanan the son of Zaccur the son of Mattaniah, for they were considered faithful, and upon them it devolved to do the distributing to their brothers. (Nehemiah 13:13)
- Under the Law there was no stated penalty to be applied to a person failing to tithe. Yehowah placed all under a strong moral obligation to provide the tithe, at the end of the three-year tithing cycle, they were required to confess before him that the tithe had been paid in full.
- When you finish with tithing the entire tenth of your produce in the third year, the year of the tenth, you must also give it to the

Levite, the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the widow, and they must eat it within your gates and satisfy themselves. (Deuteronomy 26:12)

- And you must say before Yehowah your God, I have cleared away what is holy from the house and I have also given it to the Levite and the alien resident, the fatherless boy and the widow, in accord with all your commandment that you have commanded me. I have not overstepped your commandments, nor have I forgotten. (Deuteronomy 26:13)
- I have not eaten of it during my mourning, nor have I removed any of it while unclean, nor have I given any of it for anyone dead. I have listened to the voice of Yehowah my God. I have done in accord with all that you have commanded me. (Deuteronomy 26:14)
- Do look down from your holy dwelling, the heavens, and bless your people Israel and the soil that you have given us, just as you swore to our forefathers, the land flowing with milk and honey. (Deuteronomy 26:15)
- Anything wrongfully withheld was viewed as something stolen from God.
- From the days of your forefathers you have turned aside from my regulations and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, Yehowah of armies has said. And you have said; In what way shall we return? (Malachi 3:7)
- Will earthling man rob God? But you are robbing me. And you have said; In what way have we robbed you? In the tenth parts and in the contributions. (Malachi 3:8)
- With the curse you are cursing me, and me you are robbing, the nation in its entirety. (Malachi 3:9)
- By the First Century C.E, the Jewish religious leaders, particularly among the scribes and Pharisees, were making a sanctimonious show of tithing and other outward works, in a form of worship, but their hearts were far removed from God.
- Then there came to Jesus from Jerusalem Pharisees and scribes, saying; (Matthew 15:1)

- Why is it your disciples overstep the tradition of the men of former times? For example, they do not wash their hands when about to eat a meal. (Matthew 15:2)
- In reply he said to them; Why is it you also overstep the commandment of God because of your tradition? (Matthew 15:3)
- For example, God said; Honor your father and your mother, and, Let him that reviles father or mother end up in death. (Matthew 15:4)
- But you say; Whoever says to his father or mother; Whatever I have by which you might get benefit from me is a gift dedicated to God. (Matthew 15:5)
- He must not honor his father at all. And so you have made the word of God invalid because of your tradition. (Matthew 15:6)
- You hypocrites, Isaiah aptly prophesied about you, when he said; (Matthew 15:7)
- This people honors me with their lips, yet their heart is far removed from me. (Matthew 15:8)
- It is in vain that they keep worshiping me, because they teach commands of men as doctrines. (Matthew 15:9)
- Desus reproved them for their selfish, hypocritical attitude, calling attention to their being meticulous to give a tenth even of the mint and the dill and the cumin something they should have done yet at the same time disregarding the weightier matters of the Law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness.
- Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you give the tenth of the mint and the dill and the cumin, but you have disregarded the weightier matters of the Law, namely, justice and mercy and faithfulness. These things it was binding to do, yet not to disregard the other things. (Matthew 23:23)
- But woe to you Pharisees, because you give the tenth of the mint and the rue and of every other vegetable, but you pass by the justice and the love of God! These things you were under obligation to do, but those other things not to omit. (Luke 11:42)

- By way of illustration, Jesus contrasted the Pharisee who boastfully felt self-righteous because of his own works of fasting and tithing, with the tax collector who, though considered as nothing by the Pharisee, humbled himself, confessed his sins to God, and begged for divine mercy.
- But he spoke this illustration also to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and who considered the rest as nothing. (Luke 18:9)
- Two men went up into the temple to pray, the one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. (Luke 18:10)
- The Pharisee stood and began to pray these things to himself, O God, I thank you I am not as the rest of men, extortioners, unrighteous, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. (Luke 18:11)
- I fast twice a week, I give the tenth of all things I acquire. (Luke 18:12)
- But the tax collector standing at a distance was not willing even to raise his eyes heavenward, but kept beating his breast, saying;
 O God, be gracious to me a sinner. (Luke 18:13)
- I tell you, This man went down to his home proved more righteous than that man, because everyone that exalts himself will be humiliated, but he that humbles himself will be exalted. (Luke 18:14)

· · No Tithing For Christians

- At no time were First-Century Christians commanded to pay tithes. The primary purpose of the tithing arrangement under the Law had been to support Israel's temple and priesthood, consequently the obligation to pay tithes would cease when that Mosaic Law covenant came to an end as fulfilled, through Christ's death on the torture stake.
- By means of his flesh he abolished the enmity, the Law of commandments consisting in decrees, that he might create the two peoples in union with himself into one new man and make peace. (Ephesians 2:15)

- Furthermore, though you were dead in your trespasses and in the uncircumcised state of your flesh, God made you alive together with him. He kindly forgave us all our trespasses. (Colossians 2:13)
- And blotted out the handwritten document against us, which consisted of decrees and which was in opposition to us, and He has taken it out of the way by nailing it to the torture stake. (Colossians 2:14)
- It is true that Levitical priests continued serving at the temple in Jerusalem until it was destroyed in 70 C.E, but Christians from and after 33 C.E. became part of a new spiritual priesthood that was not supported by tithes.
- For sin must not be master over you, seeing that you are not under Law but under undeserved kindness. (Romans 6:14)
- For since the priesthood is being changed, there comes to be of necessity a change also of the Law. (Hebrews 7:12)
- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for special possession, that you should declare abroad the excellencies of the one that called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9)
- As Christians, they were encouraged to give support to the Christian ministry both by their own ministerial activity and by material contributions.
- Instead of giving fixed, specified amounts to defray congregational expenses, they were to contribute according to what a person has, giving as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.
- For if the readiness is there first, it is especially acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what a person does not have. (2 Corinthians 8:12)
- Let each one do just as he has resolved in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

- They were encouraged to follow the principle. Let the older men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. For the scripture says; You must not muzzle a bull when it threshes out the grain, also; The workman is worthy of his wages.
- Let the older men who preside in a fine way be reckoned worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard in speaking and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17)
- For the scripture says; You must not muzzle a bull when it threshes out the grain. Also; The workman is worthy of his wages. (1 Timothy 5:18)
- However, the apostle Paul set an example in seeking to avoid bringing an undue financial burden on the congregation.
- And on account of being of the same trade he stayed at their home, and they worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. (Acts of Apostles 18:3)
- Certainly you bear in mind, brothers, our labor and toil. It was with working night and day, so as not to put an expensive burden upon any one of you, that we preached the Good News of God to you. (1 Thessalonians 2:9)