

## ARE YOU TITHING

### CONCLUSION ON THE STUDY OF TITHING

The Scriptures on tithing are distorted for the purpose of making merchandise of God's people (II Pet 2:3).

By stark contrast to Church organizations that instruct their adherents to send in a tithe of their incomes in cash to a centralized headquarters, the tithes in ancient Israel were delivered to the scattered cities of the Tribe of Levi in the form of produce of the land. Of the tithe received by the Levites for their livelihood, a tithe was in turn given to the priesthood for the Temple, so that only one percent went to the central Jerusalem "Headquarters." One gets the feeling that something may be rotten in the state of Church organizations that solicit tithes of their members' income to be sent in to their central offices.

Tithing was a national "taxing system" used to support the Tribe of Levi and the Temple complex in Jerusalem. The Aaronic Priesthood were a small percentage of the Levites, and may have received expense money when it came their turn to serve at the Temple. Other than that they received their prorated proportion of the national tithe that went to their tribe. On average the Levites would have had an income about 10% above that of the other tribes. Of the national income, one tenth went to the tribe of Levi, who in turn gave one tenth of that to support the Temple complex, which absorbed only one percent of the people's increase.

The tithing system ended with the captivities, but was reinstated in Judah with the restoration under Ezra and Nehemiah insofar as it could be made to work without ten tribes. The system ended when the Jewish state was destroyed by the Romans.

In the Old Testament, the tithe was essentially a national tax, of which one percent went to support the Temple.

Modern religious charlatans often maintain that they need their parishioner's "tithe money" in order to do their "Work," but it was never done in that manner in the Bible. In practice the lion's share of the money garnered under such pretenses goes to support the preacher and his organization. A person who feels duty bound to give a tithe of his income for religious purposes would be well advised to administer it personally. Otherwise all he may have is some false prophet's word that his money is being wisely spent. In Amos 4:4 the prophet says that the tithe spent on false religions is transgression.

The Scriptures do not support the idea of a tithing system being instituted by the Churches of God. There is no New Testament example of this being done. Human nature being what it is, however, Nicolaitane religious practitioners of the ancient doctrine of Balaam, the synagogue of Satan, find it needful to erect corporate entities, or idols called "Churches of God," to which they instruct the laity to sacrifice in order to maintain their mystic mediatory priesthoods, the various "ministries" of these Churches. This assessment may seem a bit too harsh, but let him gainsay it who can. This is not to say it is wrong to give a tithe IF it is your choice, but if it is done in a mandatory fashion one should question those who requires it as a command backed by God's word.