

THE WORD OF GOD:
RETURN UNTO ME,
AND I WILL
RETURN UNTO YOU,
SAITH THE LORD OF HOSTS.
BUT YE SAID,
IN WHAT WAY
SHALL WE RETURN?

Malachi 3:7b

Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me!

Glen C. Robertson

“Ye have robbed Me!” - God

I HAVE ROBBED God?? How? I must Return to God?? But how, aren't I already following my Heavenly Father sincerely? Our Heavenly Father replies:

“In tithes and offerings.”¹

¹ “**Tithing**,” or, “**the Tithe**,” is giving back to God ten percent of one's income; it belongs to God. The Old Testament Law describes Tithing in more detail, but we won't be examining Old Testament Law here.

“**An Offering**,” is what one gives back to God over and above that ten percent. We won't be examining that here; this message concerns **Tithing**. Our Heavenly Father *requires* the **Tithe**; He *expects Offerings*, freely given out of love and devotion to Him and out of love and compassion for others, in response to need:

7 Every man according as he purposeth **in his heart**, so let him give; **not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.**

II Corinthians 9:7 The BIBLE

It is significant that God speaks of these two things in tandem: Returning to God, and Tithing/Offering; He speaks of the two of them as an inseparable pair. In Malachi the Lord calls His people to return to Him, and quit robbing God:

7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. **Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts.** But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In Tithes and Offerings.

Malachi 3:7-8 The BIBLE

And, in Zechariah the Lord calls His people to return to Him, and turn from **their evil ways and doings**:

2 The LORD hath been sore displeased with your fathers.

3 Therefore say thou unto them, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; **Turn ye unto Me, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will turn unto you, saith the LORD of Hosts.**

4 Be ye not as your fathers, unto whom the former prophets have cried, saying, Thus saith the LORD of Hosts; Turn ye now from your evil ways, and from your evil doings: but they did not hear, nor hearken unto Me, saith the LORD.

Zechariah 1:2-4 The BIBLE

“But I can’t! I can barely scrape by as it is!” – Us

“But I can’t!” some would say! “I can barely scrape by as it is! I hardly have enough to live on!” Our Lord understands; He even describes that situation:

5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

6 Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.

7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

...

9 Ye looked for much, and, lo, it came to little; and when ye brought it home, I did blow upon it. Why? saith the LORD of Hosts. Because of Mine house that is waste, and ye run every man unto his own house.

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:21 The BIBLE

12 So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of **liberty**.

13 For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

15 If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

16 And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

James 2:12-17 The BIBLE

10 Therefore the heaven over you is stayed from dew, and the earth is stayed from her fruit.
 11 And I called for a drought upon the land, and upon the mountains, and upon the corn, and upon the new wine, and upon the oil, and upon that which the ground bringeth forth, and upon men, and upon cattle, and upon all the labour of the hands.

Haggai 1:5-7, 9-11 The BIBLE

16 Since those days were, when one came to an heap of twenty measures, there were but ten: when one came to the pressfat for to draw out fifty vessels out of the press, there were but twenty.

17 I smote you with blasting and with mildew and with hail in all the labours of your hands; yet ye turned not to Me, saith the LORD.

Haggai 2:16-17 The BIBLE

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed Me, even this whole nation.

Malachi 3:9 The BIBLE

Our Heavenly Father provides the answer, the answer that was in front of us in plain sight all along!

2 Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD's house should be built.

3 Then came the Word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying,

4 Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?

5 Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways.

Haggai 1:2-5 The BIBLE

10 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!**

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of Hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of Hosts.

Malachi 3:7-12 The BIBLE

“But I’ve done that, and I still can’t get by!” - Us

“But, I’ve done that, and there have still been times that I haven’t done well financially!” This, too, is our Heavenly Father’s working in our life. In all the forty years that the Children of Israel wandered in the wilderness they lacked some things. They didn’t have homes, they had no control over their own lives, and they had to get by without many possessions or the luxury of excessive mementos and, “nice things.” But they always had what they needed; God miraculously made sure of that!

5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy shoe is not waxen old upon thy foot.

Deuteronomy 29:5 The BIBLE

And those time that they/you seemed to lack, while all the while being provided for by God?

2 And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no.

3 And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

4 Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years.

5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee.

6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in His ways, and to fear Him.

Deuteronomy 8:2-6 The BIBLE

Those seeming times of lack were part of their/your walk with the Lord, in which He matured them/you. 'The Lord never promised us a rose garden,' nor that life would be without difficulty; anyone who claims such is yet immature in the Lord!

But, regardless of our apparent circumstances, despite hardship and pain, we nevertheless do not abandon Godliness and the good work He has begun and worked in our lives: When in need we don't rob banks. When lonely we don't commit fornication. When our marriage is difficult we don't commit divorce. And, at all times, we nevertheless continue to give back to the Lord what is His!²

With obedience God has promised us blessing. We need never fear being without. He has also promised that as we live in the Spirit, in obedience to Him He will mature us in Him, sometimes with difficulty. We can therefore expect His provision and His abundance. And when He sees fit to give us hardship we can declare with the three Hebrew young men of Daniel:

17 If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 **But if not, be it known** unto thee, O king, **that we will not serve thy gods**, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Daniel 3:17-18 The BIBLE

Our God is able to deliver us from all difficulty. But, if not, be it known that our hope, faith, and devotion is still to our Lord!

² 41 And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury: and many that were rich cast in much.

42 And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

43 And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury:

44 For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.

Mark 12:41-44 The BIBLE

But that's Legalism!³ Tithing is of the Old Testament, not the New Testament of Today! – *Some of Us*

Tithing Prior to the Old Testament Law

While the Ten Commandments and Law given by God, beginning in Exodus, are the first time the Tithe is explicitly dictated as such in the Bible, Tithing was practiced long before that. In Genesis 4, right at the beginning of creation, Cain and Abel brought, “offerings,” to the Lord. But, despite the fact that they are called, “offerings,” it is apparent that they weren't self-directed and arbitrary; God required of man a **specific** payment/gift.

“... And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:
5 But unto Cain and to his offering He had not respect.
Genesis 4:4b-5a The BIBLE

And, despite the fact that Cain had given God a representation of what he did for a living, a portion of his income, and something that spoke of his very identity, because Cain's offering wasn't what **God** required he was rebuked by God! So there has always been a specific payment/gift that God requires! And this was long before the Law of the Old Covenant was established!

Abraham's Tithe to Melchizedek, still some 430 years previous to Moses' establishing the Ten Commandments and the Old Testament Law, is the first actual example in Scripture of paying a ten percent Tithe. We are told in the New Testament that Melchizedek refreshed Abraham after Abraham's victory in the Slaughter of the Kings, and that Abraham gave him a Tithe of all the stolen plunder he had recovered.

18 And Melchizedek⁴ king of Salem⁵ brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

³ www.Micaiah.com/gracelaw.htm

⁴ **“MELCHIZEDEK” – Old Testament; “MELCHISEDEC” – New Testament**

“Melchizedek:” in Hebrew, literally, “*King Priest.*” From the description of Melchizedek given in Hebrews many feel that he was a preincarnate occurrence of Jesus on earth, a, “Christophany,” as also in His apparent communing in person with Abraham on the plains of Mamre in Genesis 18, four chapters later.

1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

Hebrews 7:1-4 The BIBLE

JERUSALEM

⁵ “**Salem**,” was an old name for **Zion**, parts of what is now known as “**Jerusalem.**” Modern-day Jerusalem now encompasses a number of ancient smaller towns or areas, each of which had its own name. As seen throughout the Old Testament, poetic Hebrew would repeat a certain idea (using, “rhyming meanings,” [see *Psalm 76:2*] rather than, rhyming sounds, as in English poetry), each time using different synonyms or names to say the same thing. Thus, various regional names became used for the greater city of Jerusalem.

2 Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion.

19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Genesis 14:18-20 The BIBLE

***Abraham was not of the (Law) Old Testament
(which started at Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5);
Abraham was of the (Faith) Pre-Old Testament!***

Scripture tells us that, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."⁶ For this reason Abraham is described in the New Testament (Romans 4) as the Father of Faith, and we are reminded there that God established the COVENANT OF FAITH (Genesis 15:6, Exodus 2:24; Exodus 6:2-5) with man **before** He established the COVENANT OF LAW (Exodus 19:5; Exodus 24:3-12)! So, even though God calls the, "New Testament," exactly that:

31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put My law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;

Psalm 76:2 The BIBLE

¹ Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel, and all the heads of the tribes, the chief of the fathers of the children of Israel, unto king Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion.

I Kings 8:1 The BIBLE

Jerusalem, '(Jebus-Salem)' was also known originally as **Jebus**, or **the City of David**, anciently inhabited by the Jebusites, after it had been captured and burnt during the Conquest after the Exodus from Egypt:

4 And David and all Israel went to Jerusalem, which is Jebus; where the Jebusites were, the inhabitants of the land.

5 And the inhabitants of Jebus said to David, Thou shalt not come hither. Nevertheless David took the castle of Zion, which is the city of David.

I Chronicles 11:4-5 The BIBLE

Jerusalem was also previously referred to as, "**Mount Moriah:**"

2 And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

Genesis 22:2 The BIBLE

1 Then Solomon began to build the house of the LORD at Jerusalem in Mount Moriah, where the LORD appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.

II Chronicles 3:1 The BIBLE

⁶ **Genesis 15:6; Romans 4:3; Galatians 3:6; James 2:23**

and will be their God, and they shall be My people.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 The BIBLE

Even though God calls the, "New Testament," exactly that, a, "New," Covenant/Testament,⁷ He had actually established it (with Abraham) even **before** He established His "Old" Covenant/Testament (with Moses), 430 years later!⁸ He established the, "Old" Covenant/Testament, merely to temporarily accommodate the hard hearts of His people, until Jesus came to **finally fulfill**, enable, and cement the original Covenant, His "New Covenant," with His blood on the cross, and by His putting into peoples' hearts His Holy Spirit,⁹ for which the world had been groaning and waiting for throughout history.¹⁰

4 And He (*Jesus*) answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that **He which made them at the beginning** made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7 They say unto Him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: **but from the beginning it was not so.**

Matthew 19:4-8 The BIBLE

11 But **that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.**

12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.

13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

15 Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.

16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

⁷ **Hebrews 8:8, 13; Hebrews 12:24**

7 Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the Word which ye have heard from the beginning.

8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in Him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

I John 2:7-8

5 And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, but that which we had from the beginning, that we love one another.

II John 1:5

⁸ **Galatians 3:17**

⁹ **Ezekiel 11:19-20; Ezekiel 36:25-27**

¹⁰ **Genesis 3:15; Matthew 13:17; Luke 10:24; I Peter 1:10-12**

18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

Galatians 3:11-19 The BIBLE

So, thus, Galatians 3:17 says that the Covenant of Law, "... which was four hundred and thirty years after ...," the Covenant of Faith, cannot disannul, and make 'of none effect' requirements of the Covenant of Faith, in which Abraham, the Father of the Faith Covenant, Tithed to God! Jesus Himself said that the Covenant of Law, no matter what it contained, did not have precedence over the Covenant of Faith, which was, "... from the beginning ..." (Matthew 9:4, 8). That's why Jesus said that He didn't come to do away the Old Testament but to *fulfill the New!*

17 Think not that I Am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I Am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Matthew 5:17-18 The BIBLE

1 For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him;

2 To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;

3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.

4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham:

Hebrews 7:1-5 The BIBLE

6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness.

10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision.

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Romans 4:6-16 The BIBLE

“These (*tithes*) ought ye to have done!” - Jesus

This is why Jesus, Who came to preach the Covenant of Faith, the New Covenant, not the Old,¹¹ commanded us:

42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for **ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs**, and pass over judgment and the love of God: **these ought ye to have done**, and not to leave the other undone!

Luke 11:42 The BIBLE

So Jesus, Himself, the, “Author and Finisher of our Faith,” commands us to Tithe, “these ye ought to have done!” Jesus tells us that that which was, “from the beginning, (Matthew 19:8; Mark 10:6)” is what we are to continue to follow even today, and not to, “leave it undone!”

In Malachi God tells us that, in failing to pay Him His Tithe, we, “rob God,” and are under His, “curse” (Malachi 3:8-9)! **This**, He tells us, is why we find it difficult to pay our bills and meet our expenses (Haggai 1:5-7, 9-11, Haggai 2:16-17)! In Deuteronomy 8:2-6 God shows us that in failing to pay **Him His** Tithe, and thus put our trust in Him, and His provision, but instead trying to accomplish it by our own efforts of work and finances, we stifle the work of Spiritual maturity He has been wanting to accomplish in us.

And our Heavenly Father tells us that our gifts and offerings, those things we give freely, are insufficient if not done in obedience to Him, and in combination with what He requires of us!

22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

I Samuel 15:22 The BIBLE

The Church has delighted in not being under the strict laws of the Old Testament requirements of the Jewish nation. But, in so doing they have, “thrown out the baby with the bathwater,” feeling, for some reason, that they can refuse to obey the Words of Christ, who said:

42 But woe unto you, Pharisees! for **ye tithe mint and rue and all manner of herbs**, and pass over judgment and the love of God: **these ought ye to have done**, and not to leave the other undone!

Luke 11:42 The BIBLE

15 If ye love Me, keep My commandments.

John 14:15 The BIBLE

¹¹ 16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Luke 16:16 The BIBLE

7 Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return?

8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed Me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In Tithes and Offerings.

Malachi 3:7-8 The BIBLE

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Acts 17:30 The BIBLE

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 2:5 The BIBLE