

Video 3 - The Tithing Contract

Do you know how much to return to God as tithe? Do you know where to deliver it, or even how to use it? Well, the most important reason for tithing is "... that you may learn to fear the Lord God always" (Deut. 14:22, 23, HKJV). The act of tithing should not be seen as a contribution or donation. It is an exercise of faith that recognizes God as our protector and provider, conveying peace of mind.

Immediately after Abram's tithing experience, the Lord said, "'Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward"' (Gen. 15:1, NKJV). God was telling Abram, "Don't worry. I will be your PROTECTOR and PROVIDER! We all will need to have learned that tithe lesson in the very end when there will be impossible to buy or to sell.

But how much should we return to God as tithe? In Hebrews 7:1-9 the words *tenth* and *tithe* are used interchangeably. Dictionaries define tithe as "a tenth part" or "10 percent" of something. So, the tithe is simply returning 10 percent of our income or increase to God.

But should we tithe on the gross or the net income? If we pay taxes on the gross to this world's governments, should we deal differently with the Governor of the Universe? God is the One who searches the minds and knows every intent of the heart.

Another question related to the tithe is about where to bring it. In Malachi 3:10, God indicates that we are not supposed to use it at our discretion. Instead, He specifies the storehouse as the right place, equating "the storehouse" to His house: "Bring all the tithes into **the storehouse**, that there may be food in **My house**...". In harmony with this principle, the Seventh-day Adventist Church has designated the local conferences, missions, and unions of churches as storehouses, and the local church as its outpost, on behalf of the world church.

God has also directed in the Bible how the tithe should be used. It should not be considered a charity fund and should not pay for the church's incidental expenses. Instead, it should be exclusively used for the support of the authorized ministry (Leviticus 27:30 and Numbers 18:21, 24).

Therefore, it is very much important that you identify your tithe by marking 'tithe' on the envelope, or your funds may be inadvertently used otherwise by the church's treasury. Then, be sure that you have been given a receipt.

Summarizing then, tithe will only be tithe,

1. If it is the **RIGHT AMOUNT** (10 percent)
2. If it is **TAKEN TO THE STOREHOUSE**
3. If it honors God with the **FIRST PART** of the income, and,
4. If it is used for the **RIGHT PURPOSE**—the support of the ministry.

As you prepare for the unfolding end-time events, study the Bible daily and learn more about The Tithing Contract!