

THREE TITHES

The Bible talks about three types of tithes and not one. This is found in the Old Testament law and also confirmed as a New Testament practice. Let us then seek and search the scriptures for the three tithes. They are called maaser Roth/Rishon, maaser Sheni and maaser Peah/Ani respectively. But first we must know for sure that tithing is a command regarding *all our income* and whenever our salary/income comes in. Let us examine the scriptures below.

1."You shall truly tithe all the increase of your seed that the field brings forth year by year.

Deut 14:22

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(a.) We are called to tithe all the increase of *our income* not our expenses and "all" here means "all"

(b.) Since the Jewish believers were mainly in an agricultural economy their income was calculated annually...the principle we can extract from this *cultural command* is to pay in obedience... annually or monthly or weekly or daily in accordance with the job/work we have been given by the Lord.

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3. Every Jewish believer was required by the Levitical law to pay three tithes of his property/increase

- (1.) One tithe for the Levites;
- (2.) One for the use of the temple and the great feasts; and
- (3.) One for the poor among them.

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4. Three AND'S: polyanthon

Polyanthon is the figure of many "ands" and it shows a progression of thought about three ideas/principles that are connected with each other.

This figure of speech shows that we have three clear areas where we are called to pay our tithes into.

Obeying these laws and following these values brings clear and specific blessings to the believer in Christ.

"You shall truly tithe all the increase of your seed that the field brings forth year by year.

And you shall eat before Jehovah your God in the place which He shall choose to place His name there, the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the first-born of your herds and of your flocks, so that you may learn to fear Jehovah your God always. And the Levite within your gates, you shall not forsake him, for he has no part nor inheritance with you. At the end of three years you shall bring forth all the tithe of your increase the same year, and shall lay it up inside your gates. (MAASER SHENI)

And the Levite, because he has no part nor inheritance with you, (MAASER ROTH)

And the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, who are inside your gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied, so that Jehovah your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."

Deut 14:22, 23, 27-29(MAASER PEAH)

We see in the scriptures above that there are *three store rooms* in the house of the Lord for:-

the leaders of God, the needy people of God and the work of God.

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5. Specific blessings:

**1. Promise: So that you may learn to fear Jehovah your God always
Verse 23**

2. Promise: So that Jehovah your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."

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6. Now let us examine how MAASER ROTH or the tithe to the priests are worked out in the New Testament

Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as regards giving and receiving, except you alone. For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my necessity. I do not say this because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound. I have been filled, having received from Epaphroditus the things which you sent an odor of a sweet smell

an sacrifice acceptable and well-pleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Phi 4:15-19

Who serves as a soldier at his own wages at any time? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who feeds a flock and does not partake of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things according to man? Or does not the Law say the same also? For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox threshing grain." Does God take care for oxen? Do you not know that those who minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? And those attending the altar are partakers with the altar. Even so, the Lord ordained those announcing the gospel to live from the gospel.

1Co 9:7-9, 13, 14

7. Now let us examine how MAASER SHENI or the tithes to the work of God are worked out in the New Testament.

For neither was anyone needy among them, for as many as were Owners of lands or houses, selling them, they bore the value of the Things being sold, and laid them at the feet of the apostles. And it was distributed to each according as any had need.

Act 4:34, 35

So then as we have time, let us work good toward all, especially toward those of the household of faith.

Gal 6:10

8. Now let us examine how MAASER PEAH or the tithes to the work of God are worked out in the New Testament.

5. For it has pleased those of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints in Jerusalem.

Rom 15:26

CONCLUSION: SYSTEMATIC GIVING

Most of the church of Jesus Christ still grapples with the petty issue of semantics in this regard. We must be a new generation who bucks that trend and brings transformation to how we serve God in this area. Whether we call it "tithes" or "offerings" or "love gifts" or "contributions" or "support" or "first fruits" or "aid" let us agree to practice what the bible clearly teaches on systematic giving and not get trapped by theory.

This is a clarion call to the church of Christ to Active-faith.

This is a clarion call to the body of Christ to practical Christian love.

This is a clarion call to the bride of Christ in the area of systematic giving.

Action.Action.Action

Let us begin our journey...