

# WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE DIVINE PLAN FOR SUPPORTING THE CHURCH

# 18



## EVERYTHING BELONGS TO GOD

1. To whom does the universe belong?

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2. What enormous riches does God possess?

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3. Thanks to whom do we obtain our things?

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Psalm 24:1

Haggai 2:8

Deuteronomy  
8:17, 18

## GOD'S PART

4. What proportion of our income belongs to God?

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5. We must give a tithe of how much?

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6. What is tithe used for?

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7. What wonderful blessing does God promise?

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Leviticus 27:30, 32

Genesis 28:20-22

1 Corinthians 9:13, 14

Malachi 3:10

## WHAT MUST I DO?

1. Be a faithful administrator of God's goods.

2. Be God's partner.

3. Give cheerfully

1 Peter 4:10

Proverbs 11:24, 25

2 Corinthians 9:6, 7

**I want to be God's partner. I promise to give cheerfully what belongs to God.**

SIGNATURE

THE FAITH  
OF JESUS

## ▶ ADDITIONAL STUDY ◀

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**God Owns Everything.** He is the owner of heaven and earth (Deuteronomy 10:14). Animals belong to him (Psalm 50:10-12). All wealth is his (Haggai 2:8). Our bodies and lives belong to Him (1 Corinthians 6:20).

**We Are God's Stewards.** The Lord wants us to act as his stewards (Matthew 25:14; Psalm 8:4-8). He gives us the strength to accumulate wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18; Proverbs 10:22). But He urges us to not love money (1 Timothy 6:10). We must be faithful stewards (1 Corinthians 4:1, 2). We must give according to the blessings God has granted us (Deuteronomy 16:17). Wherever our treasure is, that is where our heart will be (Luke 12:33, 34).

### Collaborators with God

The Maker is also the great Provider. He gives us life, sustenance and knowledge of the truth. As a demonstration of his love, he makes us his collaborators. What God asks of us is not because He needs it, but for us to remember our dependence on Him and in order to establish a beneficial partnership for us.

### Tithe

Tithe is the tenth part of our earnings and it belongs to God (Leviticus 27:30; 1 Chronicles 29:12, 14). Abraham would give his tithe to God (Genesis 14:20; Hebrews 7:1-7). Jacob also gave it (Genesis 28:22). It was a habitual practice of the Hebrew people (2 Chronicles 31:5, 6; Nehemiah 10:37, 38). Our Lord Jesus Christ approved of this practice (Matthew 23:23).

"The special tithe system was based on a principle that is as long lasting as God's law. This tithe system was a blessing for the Jews, otherwise God would not have given it. Likewise, it will be a blessing for those who practice it until the end of time".—Ellen G. White, *Jewels of the Testimonies*, vol. 1, p. 385.

### The Use of Tithe

Tithe was always used for sustaining worship and the ministers (Numbers 18:21). The Bible teaching is very clear that the ministers must be supported financially in order to dedicate themselves exclusively to exercising their ministry (1 Corinthians 9:13, 14; Luke 10:7). The Adventist Church uses the tithe that members give generously to preach the gospel and support the ministers. This way, every cent is used directly in God's work. A chain of salvation is being formed: you learned the truth because others were faithful in giving their tithes; now you help so that others can have the same blessed privilege.

### Other Offerings

Tithe is what we return to God because it belongs to Him. Our generosity is measured by the offerings that we give voluntarily. Offerings are destined for extending the gospel in our territory and in foreign missions, for the expenses of our own church, and for special projects. The Holy Bible recommends that we be generous in giving our offerings (1 Chronicles 16:29; Psalm 96:8, Mark 12:41-44).

### God's Marvelous Promises

In the system of tithes and offerings, in reality God promises us a partnership. He, who is the owner of all wealth, invites us to participate of the huge blessings that he is able to pour out. That is why He asks that we give abundantly and cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:6, 7). He promises to take care of us at every moment (Hebrews 13:5, 6). He assures us that we can try Him in his promise to grant us overabundant blessings (Malachi 3:10, 11; Proverbs 11:24, 25).