

Bible Study Question# 1

For the benefit of the entire group, I would like to share with everyone the question that some of you are asking with regards to Tithing. The question is, “can you give me some scriptures on tithing (we were talking about this as well and we don’t know if it’s 10% of an individual’s gross or net income)?”

I hope to explore this topic in greater detail as a bible study topic. In the meantime, let me briefly share my understanding of this topic.

When and where the idea arose of making the tenth the rate for paying tribute to rulers and of offering gifts as a religious duty cannot be determined. Certainly Abraham knew of it when he migrated from Ur (Gen 14:17-20). Since Melchizedek was a priest of the Most High, it is certain that by Abraham’s day the giving of tithes had been recognized as a holy deed (Heb 7:4).

To answer the question of paying tithes on gross or net income, one can consider the following:

Notice in Genesis 14:20 where Abraham “gave him tithes of all.” Meaning, he paid tithes on all of his increase (i.e. his gross) not what was left over. Also, see **Proverbs 3:9-10 (KJV)**

⁹ Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

¹⁰ So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Notice that it states “first fruits of **all** your increase.” This same thought is expressed in Exodus 13:12,13. Also, look at **2 Chronicles 31:5 (KJV)**

⁵ And as soon as the commandment came abroad, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of corn, wine, and oil, and honey, and of all the increase of the field; and the tithe of all *things* brought they in abundantly.

Notice “**all the increase**” and “**the tithe of all things.**” Old Testament believers gave from the best of their crops, not the leftovers. The same principle should apply to our giving today. As New Testament believers (Under Grace), we are not limited to ten percent. I will discuss this in more detail in a future bible study. ☺ For the meantime, consider this “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” ([2 Corinthians 9:7](#)).