

## OFFER THE WHOLE TITHE

### Malachi 3:6-12

Key Verse: 10

#### I. The Patriarchs (Genesis 14:17-24, 28:20-22)

1. Read Genesis 14:17-24. Who were the two kings who met Abram when he returned from the battle of the kings and rescuing Lot? What does the king of Sodom represent? (Ge 13:13)
2. Who was Melchizedek? What does he represent? (14:18; He 7:1,2)
3. Look at Melchizedek's blessing in verses 19 and 20. How does he describe God? (See footnote also.)
4. What is the significance of being blessed by God Most High, Creator and Possessor of heaven and earth? Why did Melchizedek remind Abraham that God had delivered him from his enemies? What does "blessed be God Most High" mean?
5. How did Abram respond to this blessing? (20b, 22) What is the significance of his giving a tithe of everything to Melchizedek?
6. What compromise did the king of Sodom propose? How did Abram respond? Why?
7. How did Abram's fellowship meal and conversation with Melchizedek prepare him to be clear with the king of Sodom? What can you learn here about the meaning and importance of tithing?
8. Read Genesis 28:20-22. What was the significance of Jacob's promise to tithe?

#### II. Tithing Under the Law (Numbers 18:21-29; Deuteronomy 12:6-18, 14:22-29, 26:12)

1. What is a tithe? (Lev 27:30-33)
2. Read Numbers 18:21-29. Who received and administered the tithe? (21) What directions were given for the Levites also to tithe? Who received their tithe? (26)
3. Read Deuteronomy 14:22-27. What was to be done with the tithe commanded here? Why do you think they had to bring the tithe to one designated place, prepare a meal and eat together? (23,26) What does this teach us about God?
4. Read Deuteronomy 14:28-29. How was the tithe given and how was it to be used? What promise is given in relation to this tithe? What does this teach us about God?

#### III. God's Blessing to the Tither (Malachi 3:6-12)

1. What is the command of God who does not change to his people? What promise does he give them in verses 6 and 7?
2. According to Malachi, what is the clear evidence that God's people are far from him? (7,8)
3. How do people rob God? Why is not bringing the tithe to God robbing him? What is a "whole" tithe? What does this suggest about the way people were giving to God?
4. What makes people hesitate to tithe? In what respect does God invite his people to test him? What does he promise to the one who tithes?
5. What specific ways will he bless those who tithe? (10, 11, 12)

\* From this whole study, what do you learn about giving and tithing that is important to you?