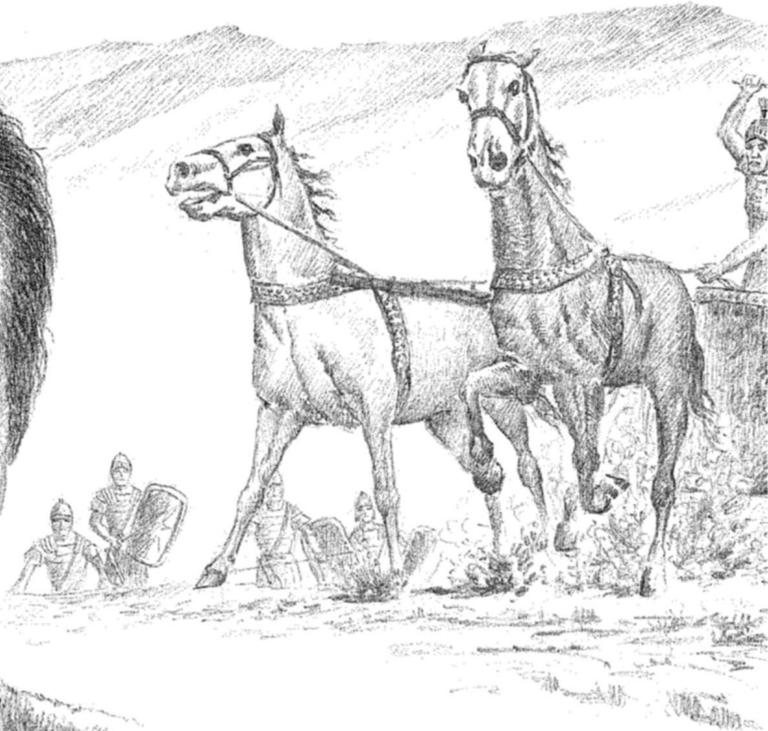
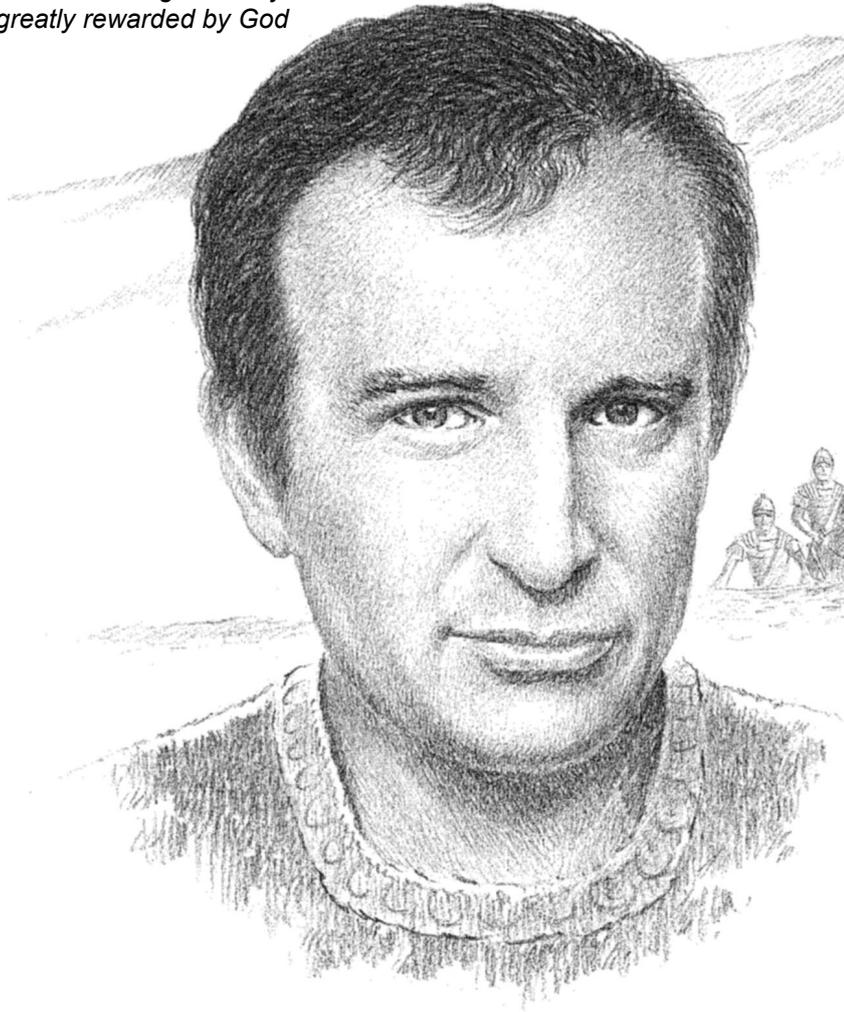


GOD'S BLESSING OF ESTABLISHING THE TITHE AS A "WEEKLY REMINDER"

LESSON 6

CORNELIUS

*A man whose generosity was
greatly rewarded by God*



CORNELIUS GAVE TO GOD

"There was a certain man in Caesarea . . . which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always" (Acts 10:1-2).



GOD'S BLESSING OF ESTABLISHING THE TITHE AS A "WEEKLY REMINDER"

The first mental picture about tithing is usually "money". Our next thought is often "must"/ "required"/"have to" give. How Satan likes to deceive and distract us. Satan's description of any situation invariably is that "*God is bad*". That is his basic lie and often we fall into complaining, grumbling, and doubting God's goodness. But in your own heart you know this is a lie. God is most wonderfully good and lavishly generous. The weekly reminder--the tithe--the great experiment -- is not about money at all. It is all about reminding ourselves how fantastically God the Father created us, how wonderfully Jesus forgives all our sins and provides eternal life, and how the Holy Spirit keeps us from pitfalls and disasters. How the Holy Trinity pours out peace and joy.

THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, 'Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME NOW herewith, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven...'" (Malachi 3:8-10).



GOD GAVE TO CORNELIUS

"...Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter ... he shall tell thee what thou ought to do [to receive salvation]" (Acts 10:4-6)





HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TITHING?

PERSONAL EVALUATION:

TRUE / FALSE

- 1. Whenever a person gives a percentage of his income to the Lord, he is tithing.
- 2. The practice of tithing is part of the Old Testament law and does not apply to the Church today.
- 3. The primary purpose of the tithe is to support the ministries of the local church.
- 4. The tithe should be given only to the local church, not to other Christian ministries.
- 5. The tithe should be given weekly, regardless of when you receive your paycheck.
- 6. Tithing only applies to the money that we earn.
- 7. If we owe people money, we should pay them back before we tithe.
- 8. A wife should tithe even if her husband does not want her to.
- 9. A husband should not tithe if his wife is against it.
- 10. If a person has not tithed for several years, he still owes God the amount that he should have tithed.
- 11. If we are given a designated gift, we need not tithe on it.
- 12. We should tithe on our gross income rather than just our net income.
- 13. If we inherit money that was earned by selling liquor, cigarettes, pornography, illicit drugs, or other harmful items, we should still tithe a portion of it.
- 14. A person who lives on pension or disabled subsidy does not need to tithe on it.
- 15. The tithe can be used to pay your child's tuition if he is attending a Christian school / institution.
- 16. If we fail to tithe, we will simply miss out on the eternal rewards which we could have had.
- 17. An older child should be given money to put in the offering in order to teach him to tithe.
- 18. If we increase our tithe to twenty per cent, we can expect God to increase His blessings on our finances.

TOTAL CORRECT

EVALUATION SCORE:

- 18-17 correct =
- 16-14 correct =
- 13-9 correct =
- 8-4 correct =
- 3-0 correct =



KNOW WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT FAITH AND GENEROSITY

From the very beginning of Creation God laid down a principle by which all people, everywhere, in all nations would be able to recognize, respect, honor, and give credit to HIM, thereby taking care of their handicapped, widows, foreigners, homeless children, and others experiencing ill health or destruction of some sort. That principle was 10% of initial or first profits, the results of one's labor, as a basis for additional generosity of many other kinds.

God also blessed Abraham with a specific promise that all people in the whole world who would follow his lifestyle of faith and unselfishness would receive many special privileges, honors, and/or blessings. And, God told Abraham that He would punish those people that did not live a lifestyle that proved that they loved God. (confirmed by Jesus in Matt.25:31-46)

1. What is the tithe?

The tithe is the first ten per cent of our income. This belongs to the Lord. There is also encouragement to give offerings to special needs, but offerings are above and beyond the tithe. In the New Testament, tithes and offerings are combined in the instruction to give as the Lord has prospered. (See II Corinthians 9:6-8.)

2. Is tithing a part of the law that does not apply to us today?

No. Tithing was established before the law was given by Moses. (See Genesis 14:20.) It was reaffirmed by Christ in the New Testament. (See Matthew 23:23.)

3. What is the real purpose of the tithe?

The tithe serves the practical functions of supporting vital church ministries. However, the underlying purpose of the tithe is to learn to fear/respect the Lord. God has promised to give wisdom and blessing to those who fear Him. *"Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed. . . of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou may learn to fear/respect the Lord thy God always"* (Deuteronomy 14:22-23). The tithe together with the Lord's Day serves to keep God in first place in all areas of our life.

4. Where is the tithe to be given?

The tithe of money is to be given to support the local church. God has designed the Church to carry out vital social functions among Christians, as well as getting out the Gospel to non-Christians. These functions include caring for the widows, distributing to the necessity of the saints,

ministering to the sick, giving to the poor, and teaching families to care for themselves. If the Church fails to carry out these functions and they are taken over by others, the Church will lose its effectiveness and become despised by the world. (See Matthew 5:13-16.)

5. When should we pay the tithe?

The tithe is to be given on the first day of each week. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when 1 come" (I Corinthians 16:2).

6. Does the tithe include more than money?

Yes. We are to give God the firstfruits of all that He gives to us. Christ commended those who tithed each part of their harvest At the same time, He warned them not to neglect such important items as justice and the love of God (See Luke 11:42.) This means that we should give God the firstfruits of our time: the first day of each week, and the first part of each day. *"Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine"* (Proverbs 3:9-10).

7. Should a man tithe if he is in debt?

Yes. The debt itself is often a witness that tithing is not taking place. It should, therefore, be a motivation to begin tithing in order to allow God to show His power in gaining financial freedom. As a practical matter, special arrangements should be made with all creditors so that they continue to receive some payment and the promise of more as funds increase. (See Matthew 6:33.)

8. Should a wife tithe if her husband does not want her to?

No. A wife's spiritual decisions, other than salvation, are under the protection of her husband. "But if her husband disallowed her on the day that he heard it [her vow]; then he shall make her vow which she vowed, and that which she uttered with her lips, wherewith she bound her soul, of none effect: and the Lord shall forgive her" (Numbers 30:8). However, this does not mean that a wife cannot give the equivalent of a tithe in other ways, with her husband's permission.

One wife, whose husband did not want her to give money, asked if she could give items that they were no longer using. He agreed to this. She then organized a sale of used clothing with some other women, and she raised \$1000 for the Lord's work. This was more money than they would have tithed, and the husband was proud of his wife and pleased with the outcome.

Other wives have received permission to make items to sell, or they have prepared food to give to those in need. God gives an example of this through the ministry of Dorcas. (See Acts 9:36-43.)

9. Should a husband tithe if his wife does not want him to?

Yes. However, her objections to tithing should be a signal to him that he may not be meeting her or his family's needs, either materially or spiritually. It would be important for this husband to find out the real reasons why his wife does not want him to tithe. If any material needs have been neglected, the husband should fulfill them; and then he should discuss with his wife God's Scriptural admonition on tithing. God holds a man responsible for teaching his wife the Word. (See Ephesians 5:26.)

10. What if I have not tithed for several years?

Each Christian must come to his own decision as to how far back he should go in tithing.

Catching up on past tithes will give us a clear conscience toward God, a conscience that is free of any guilt of robbing Him. (See Malachi 3:8.)

God wants us to be cheerful givers, and He promises that the more we give to Him the more He will give to us. "...He which sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully" (II Corinthians 9:6).

11. Should a person tithe on a designated gift?

No. The person who receives a designated gift accepts an implied trust to use it for the purpose for which it is intended. The receiver should report back to the giver that the gift was properly used. However, this does not mean that the receiver cannot use other moneys to express his gratefulness to the Lord for unexpected provision.

12. Should we tithe on our gross income or our net income?

Whether we have simple or complicated earnings, we should always tithe on our gross income. If a builder spends \$100,000 to construct an office complex and sells it for \$120,000, the \$20,000 difference is his actual income from which he would figure his tithe. This is consistent with the command to "*honor the Lord... with the first-fruits of all thine increase*" (Proverbs 3:9). Gross income is determined before taxes, social security, and other deductions, since we are to give Him the "firstfruits" of all our increase.

13. Should we tithe on an inheritance that was gained by selling harmful items?

No. These harmful items would include such things as liquor, cigarettes, and pornography. God does not want ill-gotten gain brought into His house, and it would be wise for us to also refuse it for our own personal use. "*Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore... into the house of the Lord thy God...*" (Deuteronomy 23:18). Pornography is wholesale prostitution. It is an abomination to the Lord. As such it carries a curse to those who engage in it or profit from it. The same would be true for money gained from liquor, illicit drugs, or any other means which damage the lives of others. (See Habakkuk 2:15.) The wisest use of such an inheritance would be to establish a fund to bring restitution and spiritual benefit to the groups of people whose lives were damaged. "*He that by... unjust gain increases his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor*" (Proverbs 28:8).

14. Should a person tithe from his pension?

Yes. Jesus commended and honored the widow in the temple who gave all that she had to the Lord. (See Luke 21:1-4.) God will also observe and reward the Christian who gives from his income, whether it be pension, disability compensation, or regular earnings.

15. Can the tithe be used to pay the tuition at a Christian school?

No. This is contrary to the spirit of giving, since there would be personal benefit derived from the gift.

16. Are there only eternal consequences for not tithing?

No. There are also temporal consequences. If we fail to give tithes and offerings, God will not "rebuke the devourer," and then we will suffer unnecessary financial loss. (See Malachi 3:8-11.)

17. Should an older child be given money to put in the offering in order to teach him to tithe?

No. A child who is able to earn money should be taught to tithe out of the money he earns, not out of money that is simply given to him. It is the faith of sacrifice that needs to be taught, since that is what God has promised to honor. (See Hebrews 11:6.)

18. If we increase our tithe, will God increase our financial reward?

We should not give with the expectation of financial reward, even though God will often give it. Our motives should be advancing God's kingdom, meeting needs, laying up treasures in heaven, and growing in personal faith.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF ROBBING GOD

A farmer received a 400,000 grievna profit on the sale of some land. He was encouraged to give a tithe to his church, but he decided not to do it. Shortly thereafter, he was burning some brush on the back of his property. A strong wind came and blew the fire over his fence and into his neighbor's field. The neighbor sued for damages. The total cost to the farmer was 40,000.



A successful Christian businessman listened as his neighbor explained how sick their baby was, how their car had broken down, and how a series of other unexpected expenses had come upon them. The businessman asked this Christian neighbor, "Are you tithing?"

The neighbor replied, "We can't afford to tithe. We are barely meeting our bills now."

The businessman encouraged him to make the following analysis: "Why don't you add up all of the unexpected bills that you received during the past months and see if they don't equal the tithe that you have not been giving."

The neighbor checked over his expenses of several previous months. He itemized all of the unexpected bills. To his amazement, he discovered that it was almost exactly the same amount that his tithe would have been.

This neighbor was experiencing the truth of God's principles regarding the tithe. If we fail to give tithes, God will simply not rebuke the devourer. (See Malachi 3:11.) This lesson is about making personal choices to give honor to God and not to rob Him.

God is very serious about a lifestyle that exhibits selfishness because it reflects a person's attitude of self-importance. "It is all about ME". God, His Kingdom, other people are secondary at best.

This was Lucifer's base of rebellion, and receives God's most severe punishment. This is repeatedly illustrated throughout Scripture. (Benhadad, Nebuchadnezzar, Ananias & Sapphira).



THE GREAT EXPERIMENT

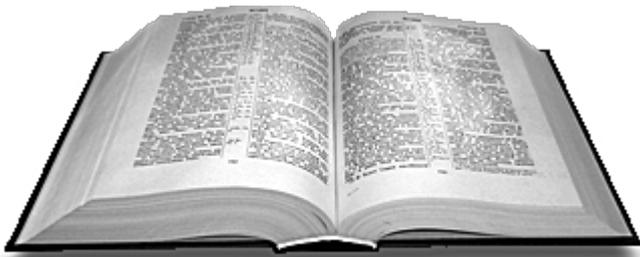
“PURPOSE NOT TO ROB GOD”

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse.... Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse... And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground..." (Malachi 3:8-11).

1. When did you become a genuinely Born Again Christian? (not your baptism) Date _____
2. Can you roughly trace God's blessing in your life since you became a Christian? Have you knelt down and given thanks? YES NO
3. Approximate the total of your income over the period since your salvation. Was God's generosity surprisingly more than you thought? YES NO
4. Was your giving also generous? YES NO
5. Are you an active member of a church that honors and obeys the Bible as the inspired, infallible Word of God? YES NO
6. What would be the approximate total amount you have given to your local church over this same time period? Amount _____
7. Will you start keeping records of your tithing & giving? YES NO
8. Based on your own records, (or your memory if you do not have records) is there tithe money that you have not given to God? YES NO
Amount _____
9. During times that you did not tithe, did you experience the devouring of your funds through unexpected losses? YES NO
Amount _____
10. Have you honored God by regularly giving Him His full day each week? (Continued worshipping at home by spiritual discussions, Bible reading, Christian movies, training children etc.?) YES NO

This lesson is about making a personal choice to engage in “the great experiment”. Almost invariably making a choice – a firm choice - with the knowledge of other people - brings, relief from pressure, joy, peace, success, and above all God's Divine pleasure in our lives. To help you therefore we suggest that here and now you sign a commitment to become a participant in THE GREAT EXPERIMENT.

Personal Commitment to Scriptural Tithing



I confess my ignorance and shortcomings which resulted in robbing God, and I claim the forgiveness He promises in I John 1:9. By faith I join "The Great Experiment" that God offers. I believe His promise for me in Deut. 28:1-14. By faith from this day forward, I purpose to give God tithes and offerings both of my time and money.

Date _____

This coming week's tithe will be _____

Signature _____

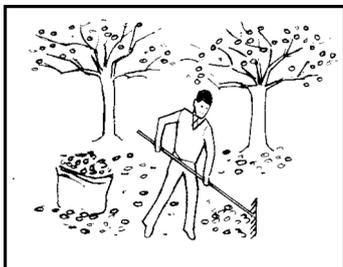
BASIC QUIZ NUMBER 6

A decision to tithe will influence your family in several ways. Discussing Financial Freedom and what it will do with the whole family will greatly help you to make a peaceful transition. Sharing « The Great Experiment » will create much new expectation / faith, even motivation in your children.

Here is a quiz to help your children understand God's principle of generosity.

CHILDREN WHAT WOULD YOU TITHE?

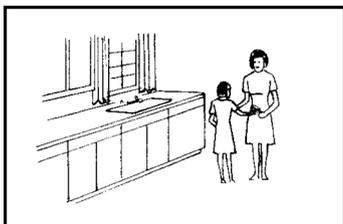
Supply the following situations with the correct answer



1. If you did some chores and earned 20 grievnas, how much would your tithe to God be?



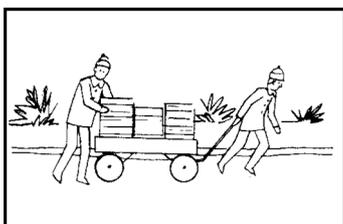
2. If you found a wallet containing 100 grievnas, how much would you tithe to the Lord?



3. If your mother gave you 60 grievnas to buy some groceries, how much would you tithe from this?



4. If you started a bank account and saved 10.000 grievnas over several years without tithing, what should you now give to the Lord in tithes?



5. If you and your friend collected old paper and bottles and sold them to a recycling center for 30 grievnas, what would be the amount of your tithe?



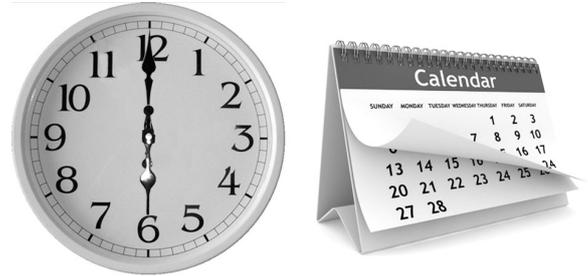
6. If you received your first pay for 4.000 grievnas and had 500 grn of that amount withheld for your uniform or travel expense, what amount should you tithe?

HOW DID GOD HONOR THOSE WHO GAVE TITHES AND OFFERINGS?

Would our great God wish to give you the same honors as these 7 MEN. God is the same, HE hasn't changed and HIS promises are still valid today.

Match God's rewards to the following individuals.

- 1. Abraham tithed ten per cent of all the spoils which he had won in his battle against King Chedorlaomer. (See Genesis 14-15.)
- 2. Solomon gave a thousand burnt offerings to the Lord after becoming king. (See I Kings 3:4-15.)
- 3. Jacob offered to God ten per cent of all he received back from the Lord. (See Genesis 28:22.)
- 4. Cornelius, a Roman Centurion, gave generously to the needs of the Jews. (See Acts 10.)
- 5. David gave an offering to the Lord, and this offering required personal sacrifice on his part. (See II Samuel 24:18-25.)
- 6. Barnabas sold his land and gave the money to the Church. (See Acts 4:36-37)
- 7. Noah gave an offering to the Lord immediately after coming out of the ark. (See Genesis 8:20-22.)



- A.** God gave to him and his family salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit
- B.** He was given the promise of a son.
- C.** God stopped the plague that was destroying the nation.
- D.** God promised that He would never again repeat the judgment he had seen.
- E.** He received twenty years of financial success.
- F.** He was given public honor and a special ministry from the Lord.
- G.** God gave him riches and honor and long life as well as wisdom.



CAN YOU MATCH TITHING QUESTIONS TO SCRIPTURAL TESTIMONIES?

Which Bible Testimony correlates closely to your own? Praise our Lord Jesus for what HE has already blessed you with.

Check the person who most clearly illustrates God's answers on tithing.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1. Is tithing a part of the Mosaic Law and therefore not applicable to us today?</p> <p>2. Should the tithe be given to the local church?</p> <p>3. How do we know that the real purpose of the tithe is to learn to put the Lord first?</p> <p>4. Who says that offerings (tithes) should be given on the first day of the week?</p> <p>5. Can the tithe involve something other than money?</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Noah</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abraham</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> David</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Stephen</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Peter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Barnabas</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Joshua</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Naaman</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cornelius</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Paul</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Matthew</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Luke</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jonah</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Abraham</p> | <p>6. Should I decide to tithe even if I do not have any money?</p> <p>7. What if I have failed to tithe for several years?</p> <p>8. Should a husband tithe without his wife's approval?</p> <p>9. How do we know that we should not tithe from a designated gift?</p> <p>10. Is it true that God even honors the tithes of a non-Christian?</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jacob</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Joseph</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lot</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Nicodemus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Zacchaeus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cornelius</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Abraham</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Isaac</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Jacob</p>
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