

FIRSTFRUITS - FIRST BORN **(God's Portion)**

Exodus 13:1-2 “Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, ‘Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and beast; **it is Mine.**”

Exodus 22:29 “You shall not delay to **offer the first of your ripe produce** and you juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.”

Leviticus 23:10 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: When you come into the land which I will give to you, and reap its harvest, then you shall bring **a sheaf of the firstfruits** of your harvest to the priest.”

Deuteronomy 26:1-2 “And it shall be, when you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, and you possess it and dwell in it, that you shall take **some of the first** of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His name abide.”

Proverbs 3:5-9 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones. Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with **the firstfruits** of all your increase;”

JERICHO, THE FIRST CITY IN POSSESSING THE LAND

Joshua 6:18-19 “And you, by all means abstain from the accursed things, lest you become accursed when you take of the accursed things, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. But **all the silver and gold, and vessels of bronze and iron,** are consecrated to the Lord; they shall come into the treasury of the Lord.”

Joshua 7:1-11 “But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the Lord burned against the children of Israel. Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Beth Aven, on the east side of Bethel, and spoke to them, saying, ‘Go up and spy out the county.’ So the men went up and spied out Ai. And they returned to Joshua and said to him, ‘Do not let the people go up, but let about two or three

thousand men go up and attack Ai. Do not weary all the people there, for the people of Ai are few.’ So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai. And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water. Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the Lord until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads. And Joshua said, ‘Alas, Lord God, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all—to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan! O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies? For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?’ So the Lord said to Joshua: ‘Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have taken of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and **they have also put it among their own stuff.**”

ROBBING GOD OF THE FIRST - A TWO WAY TEST - GOD AND US.

Malachi 3:7-12 “‘Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you.’ Says the Lord of hosts. ‘But you said, ‘In what way shall we return?’ ‘Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed you?’ **In tithes and offerings.** You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation. Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and **try Me now in this.**’ Says the Lord of hosts, ‘If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, so that he will not destroy the fruit of your ground. Nor shall the vine fail to bear fruit for you in the field.’ Says the Lord of hosts; ‘and all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land,’ says the Lord of hosts.”

TITHING IS BIBLICAL - 500 YEARS BEFORE THE LAW

Genesis 14:18-20 “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God most High. And he blessed him and said: ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ **And he gave him a title of all.**”

THE OFFERINGS OF CAIN AND ABEL

Genesis 4:3-7 “And in **the process of time** it came to pass that **Cain brought an offering** of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the **firstborn** of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, ‘Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, **-(if you offer rightly)** will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, **-(if you do not offer correctly)** sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.’”

Matthew 6:24-33 “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. **But seek first the kingdom of God** and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”