

Deuteronomy 14:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year.

Analysis

Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed (עָשָׂר תְּעַשֶׂר, aser te'aser, intensive construction: 'you shall certainly tithe')—The tithe (תְּעַשֶׂר, ma'aser, literally 'tenth') acknowledges God's ownership of all. **The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof** (Psalm 24:1). Tithing isn't paying God what's His; it's acknowledging everything is His.

Moses describes three tithes:

1. Levitical tithe (Numbers 18:21)
2. Festival tithe (here, vv. 22-27)
3. Charity tithe every third year (vv. 28-29).

Together they approach 23% annually—far exceeding modern 'prosperity gospel' minimums. Malachi confronts: **Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me** (Malachi 3:8). New Testament giving isn't less generous but more: **freely ye have received, freely give** (Matthew 10:8).

Historical Context

Agricultural societies measured wealth in harvest yields. Annual tithing forced Israel to trust God for next year's provision—an act of faith that God owned and would replenish the fields. Failure to tithe declared practical atheism: 'I alone make this grow.'

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Does your giving reflect mere obligation (minimum percentage) or grateful acknowledgment that everything belongs to God?
2. How does systematic, 'certain' tithing (not sporadic generosity) demonstrate trust in God's continued provision?
3. What areas of your 'increase' (time, talents, relationships) need to be 'tithed' beyond financial giving?

Interlinear Text

תַּעֲשֶׂה רַ	תַּעֲשֶׂה רַ	כָּל	אֵת	תְּבוּאָת	זֶרְעֶךָ
Thou shalt truly	Thou shalt truly	H853	H3605	all the increase	of thy seed
H6237	H6237			H8393	H2233
הֵיִצֵּא	הַשָּׂדֶה	שָׁנָה:	שָׁנָה:		
bringeth forth	that the field	by year	by year		
H3318	H7704	H8141	H8141		

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 10:37 (Parallel theme): And that we should bring the firstfruits of our dough, and our offerings, and the fruit of all manner of trees, of wine and of oil, unto the priests, to the chambers of the house of our God; and the tithes of our ground unto the Levites, that the same Levites might have the tithes in all the cities of our tillage.

Deuteronomy 12:6 (Parallel theme): And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:

Deuteronomy 12:17 (Parallel theme): Thou mayest not eat within thy gates the tithe of thy corn, or of thy wine, or of thy oil, or the firstlings of thy herds or of thy flock, nor any of thy vows which thou vowest, nor thy freewill offerings, or heave offering of thine hand:

Numbers 18:21 (Parallel theme): And, behold, I have given the children of Levi all the tenth in Israel for an inheritance, for their service which they serve, even the service of the tabernacle of the congregation.

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