

The Tithing System



Week Seven

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Malachi 3:1–10

THE FUEL THAT CAUSED RAPID EXPANSION

When they were first married, the Whites sold nearly all they had so they could print books and periodicals. James often laid railroad tracks or cut grass by hand to earn just a few dollars. Their diet was very limited. They couldn't afford potatoes or butter. Beans were a staple in their house, much to the dismay of Uriah Smith, who lived with the Whites in 1852. At age 20, Smith sacrificed a very lucrative job to join the unpaid team helping James White publish the *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald* biweekly. These early pioneers endured trying times because they valued their message above all else.

In the mid-1850s, J.N. Andrews and J.N. Loughborough moved their families to Iowa to spread the gospel in the new farming community, but shortly after arriving, they both stopped their full-time ministry and resorted to manual labor to support their families. The preachers were startled when the Whites unexpectedly arrived in the coldest part of winter. After some deep heart searching, both men returned to preaching. Ministry was very difficult without a system to provide financial support.

The church didn't officially adopt Systematic Benevolence, a plan in which believers gave every week to support the preachers, until 1859. These offerings weren't necessarily a tenth of their income as we're accustomed to today; tithe didn't support ministers until 1878. As the tithing system was adopted, the church rapidly spread to other continents. This week's lesson will explore the reasons to give our tithes and offerings to support God's work.

Handwriting practice grid consisting of 20 columns and 30 rows of dots.



inScribe

Write out Malachi 3:1–10 from the translation of your choice. If you're pressed for time, write out a portion of the primary passage. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, or outline or mind-map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

Seventh-day Adventists were slowly led to the biblical model of tithes and offerings over a period of two decades. What does this teach us about how God reveals truth to us?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/SDAH07-3



inTerpret

After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks seem to point to overall?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?

How has God blessed you when you have given?



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What relationship do the following verses have with Malachi 3:1–10?

- Proverbs 3:9, 10
- Leviticus 27:30, 32
- Genesis 14:18–20
- Numbers 18:20, 21
- Nehemiah 13:10–13
- Deuteronomy 8:17, 18
- Deuteronomy 12:5, 6
- 2 Chronicles 31:4–6, 12–16
- 1 Corinthians 9:13, 14
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with the primary passage?

Review your memorized verse from Malachi 3:1–10.



Meditate on the primary passage again and look for where Jesus is.



What does Jesus' sacrifice teach us about true giving?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

What is He saying to you personally through these texts?

Prayer Response:



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Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?

After this week's study, what are
some personal applications you
are convicted of in your life?

What are some practical
applications you must make in
your school, family, workplace,
and church life?



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
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inQuire

Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



Do you think so few tithe regularly because there's no direct or immediate punishment for robbing God? Or does it just come down to selfishness and laziness?

Why does God sometimes have conditions for His blessings?

Why does God still expect us to return a faithful tithe and offering, regardless of how it is used by those entrusted with it?

Can we still receive blessings through giving tithe even if we don't honor God in every other area of our lives? Why or why not?

How can we overcome the mindset that all our money is ours and we can choose what we do with it?

What other ways are we impacted when we rob God of tithes and offerings?

What other ways is God affected when we rob Him of tithes and offerings?