

BUT JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID, “I AM
NOT SENT BUT UNTO THE LOST SHEEP OF
THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL.”

MATTHEW 15:24

- God’s judgment is usually thought of as only against pagans; it is not
- Matthew 15:22 – 24
- Malachai is prophesying to the Jews of Yehud, not to “the world” of pagans
- 1Peter 4:17 Judgment begins with God’s household

MALACHI

REPENTANCE



- Sincerity in faith, and truth in what we have faith in
- Sincerity is judged by God according to His standard
- Malachai 3:6 The 5th Burden (Oracle)
- Tithing as a symbol of authentic worship
- 1 Samuel 15:22
- Matthew 9:13



- **Ki** = grammar makes it operate as cause and effect
- “I am as I am” boils down to unchangeable nature of God
- God is the great “I am”, not the great “I am becoming”
- God had no “out” from the covenants
- If Israel broke the covenant terms, it set off punishments

WHAT DOES GOD MEAN WHEN HE SAYS

"Return to Me, and I will return to you"?

MALACHI 3:7

- God never changes. But so does Israel never change!
- To return, means to turn from wickedness to God's ways as given in the Law of Moses
- Repentance is expressed ONLY by behavior change
- Job 28:28 Proverbs 3:7
- Even behavior change must meet God's standard



- All covenants with God are based on reciprocation
- The indictment against Israel is that they did NOT reciprocate
- Ezekiel 37:21 – 24 “My servant David” = Messiah
- Messiah will someday re-instill The Law
- Doctrinal error is built upon each generation of error

Will A Man Rob God?



Yet You Have Robbed Me

BLAMING GOD!

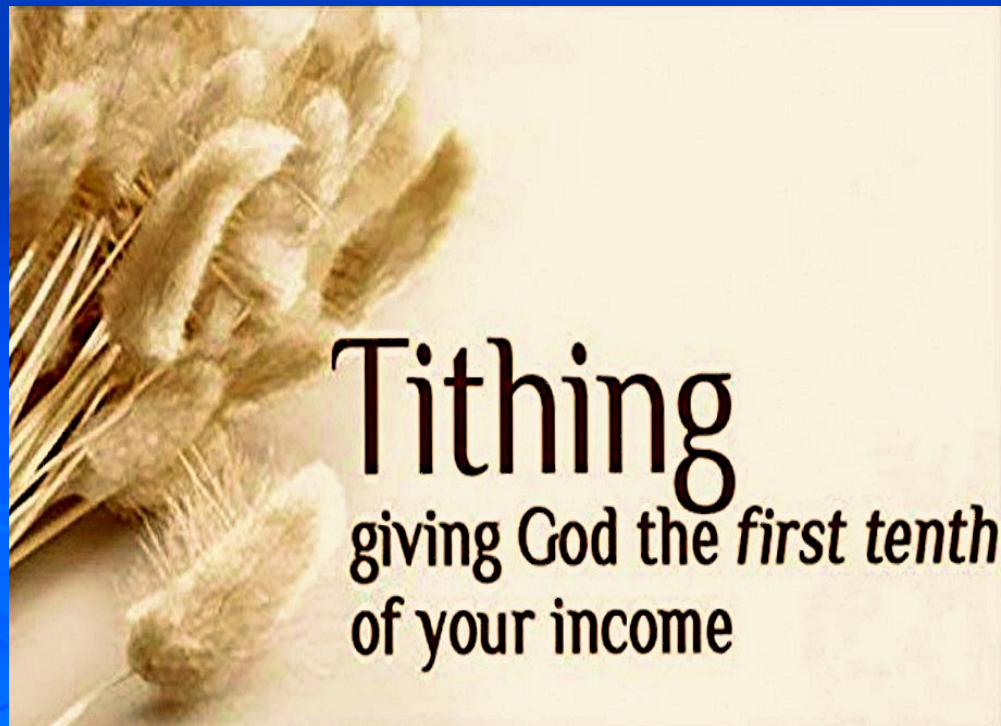


- Malachai 3:8
- A rhetorical question
- Not tithing properly is just an example of their unrighteousness
- These people didn't think their wanton behavior should merit God's anger against them
- Their poor economic conditions were an action of God, but they saw it as unjust
- This word means more like strong-arm robbery

- “Tithe” is a technical term for giving to the Temple
- Originally of produce, but later money + produce, and now only money
- To hold back the tithe harmed the Priesthood that depended on the food
- God explains that because of the people being stingy with Him, He is being stingy to them
- Malachai 2:17 They had been demanding justice, but didn’t realize they had been receiving justice!

MALACHI 3:9

"YOU ARE UNDER A CURSE,
THE WHOLE NATION OF YOU,
BECAUSE YOU ARE ROBBING ME."

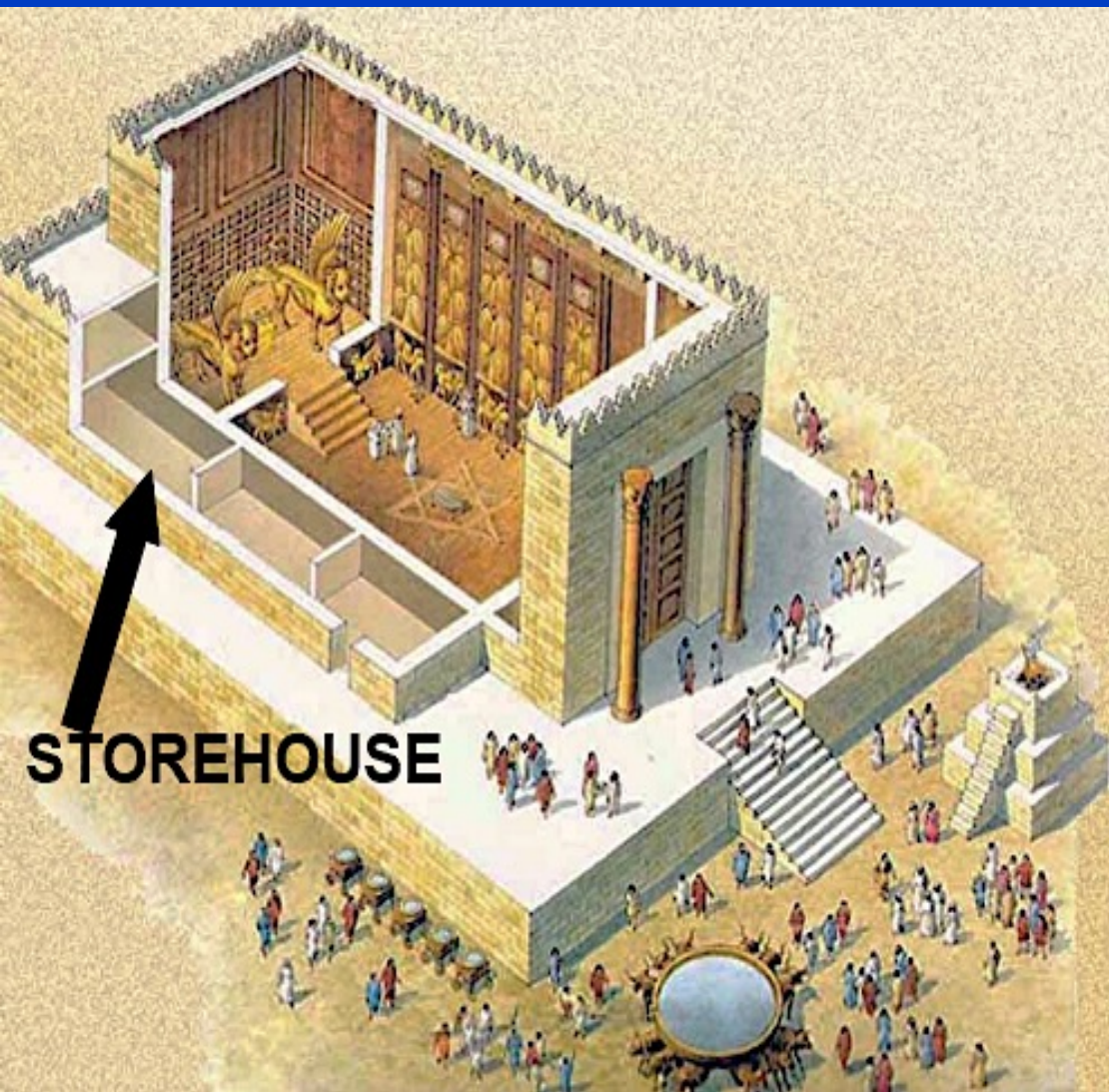


Tithing

giving God the *first tenth*
of your income

CAUSE & EFFECT

IF > THEN



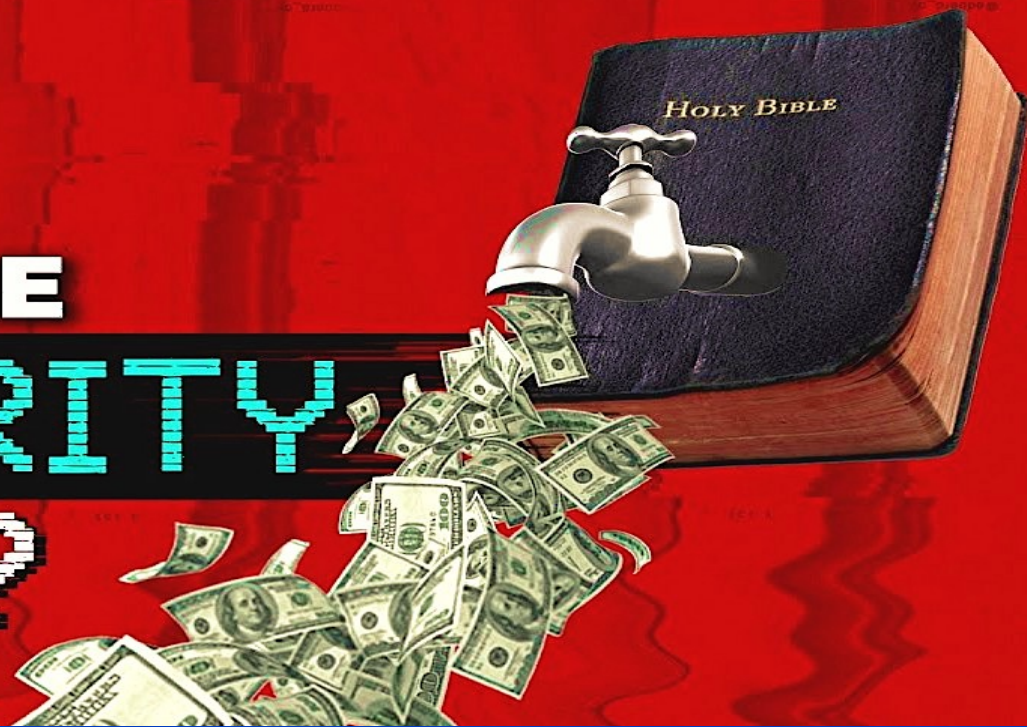
- Malachai 3:10
- Food is not for God, it is for the Priests
- ***Bachan*** = test, try
- In this case, it is OK for the people to test God about His promise re: tithing
- Almost all tithing was in the form of produce
- If people didn't give the full tithe, the priests didn't get enough food

OBEDIENCE to what?



- The Jews of Yehud believed they were obedient
- Yet, it was to religious establishment rules, and NOT to God's laws and commands
- The modern Christian view of "obedience" mirrors that of the Jews of Malachai's day
- God's reaction to this corrupt philosophy is severe

IS THERE TRUTH TO THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL?



- God promised that if they gave the whole tithe, He would provide more than mere subsistence
- If we obey because of a pure heart that's one thing
- If we tithe in a greedy, self-centered way hoping to get rich, that's another
- Malachai 3:11 ***"I will forbid the devourer..."***
- Locusts are the devourers