

Church Finances

The beliefs of 3CI Church

Feb 2024

Gen 14:17-20

17 After Abram returned from his victory over Kedorlaomer and all his allies, the king of Sodom went out to meet him in the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

18 And Melchizedek, the king of Salem and a priest of God Most High, brought Abram some bread and wine. 19 Melchizedek blessed Abram with this blessing:

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And blessed be God Most High, who has defeated your enemies for you.” Then Abram **gave** Melchizedek **a tenth** of all the goods he had recovered.

The first tithe

- Abraham tithed broke bread and had a revelation
- The response was generosity

- Not compulsion
- Before the law
- Not a salvation issue

Stewardship:

1. Time
2. Talents
3. Treasures
4. Relationships
5. Opportunities

The things we will account for, we need to steward well

Gen 15 v 1

The LORD's Covenant Promise to Abram

1Some time later, the LORD spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for **I will protect you, and your reward will be great.**"

Gen 26 v 1,12

1 A severe famine now struck the land,...

2 The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you. 3 Live here as a foreigner in this land, and I will be with you and bless you. I hereby confirm that I will give all these lands to you and your descendants, **just as I solemnly promised Abraham, your father.**

...

12 When Isaac planted his crops that year, he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the LORD blessed him.

Gen 28 v 10 - 22

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

10 Meanwhile, Jacob left Beersheba and traveled toward Haran. 11 At sundown he arrived at a good place to set up camp and stopped there for the night. Jacob found a stone to rest his head against and lay down to sleep. 12 As he slept, he dreamed of a stairway that reached from the earth up to heaven. And he saw the angels of God going up and down the stairway.

Gen 28 v 10 - 22

13 At the top of the stairway stood the LORD, and he said, “I am the LORD, the God of your grandfather Abraham, and the God of your father, Isaac. The ground you are lying on belongs to you. I am giving it to you and your descendants. 14 Your descendants will be as numerous as the dust of the earth! They will spread out in all directions—to the west and the east, to the north and the south. And all the families of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants. 15 What’s more, I am with you, and I will protect you wherever you go. One day I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have finished giving you everything I have promised you.”

Gen 28 v 10 - 22

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

16Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I wasn't even aware of it!" 17But he was also afraid and said, "What an awesome place this is! It is none other than the house of God, the very gateway to heaven!"

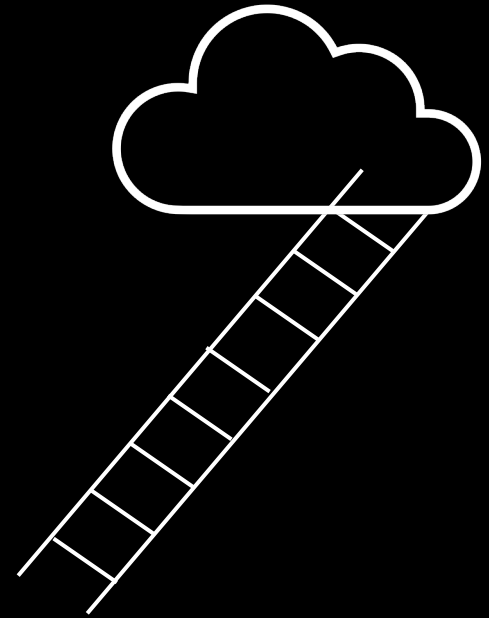
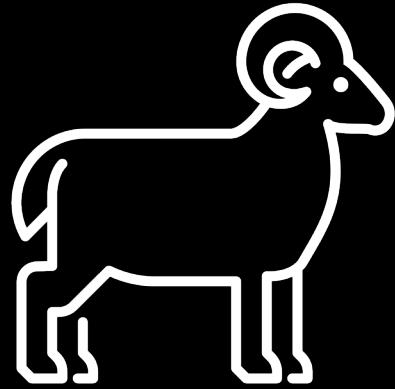
18The next morning Jacob got up very early. He took the stone he had rested his head against, and he set it upright as a memorial pillar. Then he poured olive oil over it. 19He named that place Bethel (which means "house of God"), although it was previously called Luz.

Gen 28 v 10 - 22

20 Then Jacob made this vow: “If God will indeed be with me and protect me on this journey, and if he will provide me with food and clothing, 21 and if I return safely to my father’s home, then the LORD will certainly be my God. 22 And this memorial pillar I have set up will become a place for worshiping God, **and I will present to God a tenth of everything he gives me.**”

John 1 v 51

51 Then he said, "I tell you the truth, you will all see heaven open and the angels of God going up and down on the Son of Man, the one who is the stairway between heaven and earth."



2 Corinthians 8:7 NLT

Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.

Types of giving

1. Tithing
2. Offering (eg. to build the temple)
3. Apostolic giving
4. Alms to the poor
5. General generosity

2 Cor 9 v 6 -11

6 Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants **generously** will get a generous crop. 7 You must **each decide in your heart how much to give**. And **don't give reluctantly** or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives **cheerfully**.” 8 And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 9 As the Scriptures say,

“They share freely and give generously to the poor. Their good deeds will be remembered forever.”

10 For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you.

How to give

- From your heart
- Generously
- Different person to person (not prescribed)
- Not in response to pressure
- Cheerfully

Pictures of kingdom finances



Matthew 23:23

23 “What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore the more important aspects of the law—justice, mercy, and faith. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.

Malachi 3:10

10 Bring all the tithes into the storehouse so there will be enough food in my Temple. If you do,” says the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, “I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won’t have enough room to take it in! Try it! Put me to the test!

2 Cor 8:7

7 Since you excel in so many ways—in your faith, your gifted speakers, your knowledge, your enthusiasm, and your love from us—I want you to excel also in this gracious act of giving.