

C H A P T E R 8

Answers to Pre-Law Arguments for Mandatory New Testament Tithes

Tithes and offerings are only understood and appreciated when discussed in their proper contexts. There are three periods of time that comprise the various contexts: pre-law, law, and post-law. Each of the three has its own definitions and criteria for tithes and offerings.

The Old Testament provides a view of voluntary and mandatory tithes and offerings. Moses introduced to the Jews a comprehensive system of giving to God that included mandatory and voluntary giving. That system is exclusively in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These four books are known as the law of Moses.

Israel's economic foundation was built on the law. So tithes and offerings were as ingrained in their society as taxes are ingrained in ours. Actually, their system of tithes and offerings was similar to the American tax system. That will be discussed later. Right now let's look at tithes and offerings before the law.