

CHAPTER 9

The Definition of Tithes During the Law of Moses

Mandatory tithes, mandatory offerings, and some voluntary offerings became the law of the land for Israel under the leadership of Moses in approximately 1400 B.C. It is my earnest desire that as you learn of Israel's system of tithes and offerings, you will see that there is absolutely no similarity in our system of tithes and offerings and that of ancient Israel's. I also want you to see that we do not share with Israel common definitions of tithes and offerings. In fact, our version is totally man-made and has no authority over you except the authority you give it.

God gave Israel clear definitions and rules for tithes and offerings. New Testament Christians, however, are given ever-changing definitions and rules, depending on who does the teaching and what the preacher's financial need is at the time.

Early in my Christian walk I suffered through a two-hour sermon about why Christians supposedly really owe God about 30% of their income. Fortunately, it is rare to run across one of these thirty-percent rascals. The usual demand is normally only ten percent of our gross income, plus extremely frequent offerings. But where do preachers get their authority to demand *any* percentage of our income for their projects?