

The Christian and God's Money

Giving in the Old Testament

Genesis 4.1-5

- People gave offerings to God
- Abel's was accepted
- Cain's was not
- Hebrews 11.4 explains what was wrong.
- Cain had no faith in God. It's not an intellectual issue—he's talking to God!
- Whatever deficiency there was in the substance of Cain's offering, the root problem was his lack of faith

The word “offering”

- Is used over 200 times in the OT.
- When it refers to giving something to God, it’s called an offering (rarely oblation or sacrifice).
- When it refers to giving something to men, it’s called a gift or a present (Genesis 32.18).
- Whether under the Law or not, men gave God gifts.

People offered sacrifices prior to the Law

- Genesis 31.54, Jacob offered a sacrifice
- And again in Genesis 46.1
- Moses asked Pharaoh to let the Jews go, so they could sacrifice. Exodus 3.18; 5.3

The Law of Moses regulated offerings to God, but it did not institute them

There was the tithe

- Deuteronomy 14.22
- Numbers 18.26
- Leviticus 27.30-34
- Everyone tithed: Rich and poor
- And the tithe was the most “mechanical” of offerings.

The tithe was “functional” in a material way. This is loving your neighbor

- The tithe supported the Levitical system. Numbers 18.20-21. II Chronicles 31.4-5
- Another tithe was taken—for festival purposes. Deuteronomy 14.22-26
- Another tithe provided for the poor, the alien, and the Levite. Deuteronomy 14.27-29

Offerings functioned in a spiritual way. This is loving God

- Leviticus 1-7 explains offerings
- Leviticus 1.3 Burnt Sacrifice
- Leviticus 2.1 Meat offerings
- Leviticus 3.1 Peace offerings
- Leviticus 4.1-3 Sin offerings
- Leviticus 5.1-6 Trespass offerings

Just as everyone tithed, everyone was expected to bring an offering

- Leviticus 14.21-22
- This is why failing to do so was called robbery. Malachi 3.8-12
- The entire tribe of Levi was a gift to God. Numbers 18.6
- Even in the OT, it was a matter of faith. And heart. II Samuel 24.21-25