



TRAINING FOR GUYS

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More Money Stuff

A few weeks ago we spent some time looking at Giving: *What to Give* and *Where to Give*. I don't want to repeat that but I do want to try to answer a few misunderstandings and questions that came out of it.

A significant point was that we are no longer under the *rules* of the Old Testament. But that does not mean we can ignore the OT. The rules in it express God's heart, and in many ways are an ideal. But one of the lessons of the Old Testament is that we *cannot* keep the Law. So God sent Jesus to fulfil it and then to initiate a new covenant with us. Paul says if you want to keep a part of the Law then you need to keep all of it (Galatians 5:2-4).

So, we do not tithe in order to fulfil the Law.

But the *principles* are what we need to look at. As part of their worship, the Jewish Law required them to *put God first*. They brought their *first fruits*... the first crop of the season, the first lamb born (although they could redeem this with a payment), and so on. Even their *first born son* had to be redeemed back as he belonged to God.

So, taking that principle for starters, is your giving a 'first fruit' thing? Do you give out of what you have left at the end just before you get paid again - or do you decide in advance how much of what you are paid is for God and then give that no matter how it impacts on your other plans? Some say the first pay rise should all go to God, etc... but the word *should* there brings us back to legalism. No,

it's *your* relationship with God and it's *your worship*. What is God worth to you, and is your giving declaring that?

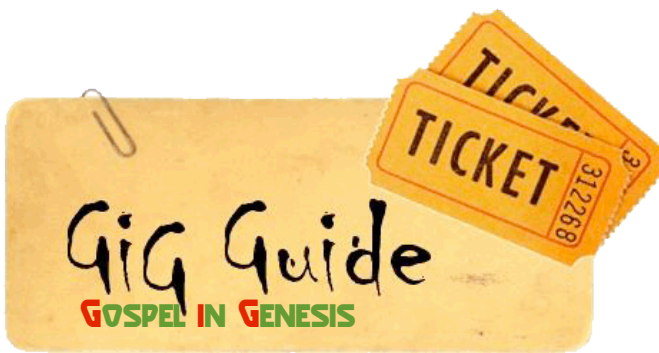
Then in the OT they had the *tithe*. 10% was God's, no question. There were *offerings* out of love to the things of God. And then there were *alms* to the needy.

The Law was set up so that the Jews were in no doubt that what they had was God's. Someone has worked out that the prescribed giving was about 25% a year, with more as offerings etc.

So the principle is that it is God's, and we should be generous. 10%? 25%? 2%? What we all need to do is think about what is right for us in terms of our worship of Jesus. Agree it in relationship with Him.

The final OT principle is that God didn't owe anything to anyone. He gave back generously, in some things 10fold and in other things 100fold. God's promises to us in the New Covenant are never less than in the Old. In Matthew 6 Jesus says: ³¹ *So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?"* ³² *For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them.* ³³ *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*

Our giving is part of our seeking, seeking to love God in relationship with Him. You can't outdo Him, He will always outbless you!



Bible Study Series
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 5 v 5-7
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The Ark of Noah in chapters 6 onwards of Genesis is a *Type of Jesus*. God saw the wickedness of the earth and saw that He alone could make provision for salvation, even as His holiness decreed sin had to be wiped from the earth.

Ark does not mean 'boat' or 'ship' but a 'box to keep precious things in' - Moses was saved in an ark as a baby and the Covenant tablets were kept in an Ark in the Tabernacle and Temple. This box was covered in *pitch*, the Hebrew for this is *kopher*. It's not clear what this substance was but the word *kopher* is used a lot in the Bible and means *covering, redemptive price, ransom*. So we see a redemptive ransom covering prophesied even in the bituminous tar! (<http://tinyurl.com/pitchARK>)

The Ark was the *only means of salvation* available to the people at the time. It was the means of grace and salvation was found in nothing else. God provides salvation, but there is only One Way to receive it, and that is through Jesus.

Jesus said in John 14 "In my Father's house are many rooms" and we see the same in the Ark. In Genesis 6:14 we read Noah was to make rooms in the ark, a place for every creature saved. (The word translated rooms here - *q'en* - is translated as nests everywhere else in the Old Testament. Not just a room, but a nest, which is a place of safety designed exactly to fit the creature).

Safe inside the Ark, the saved were protected from the Judgement that came upon the earth. It suffered the raging torrents in their place - just as Jesus suffered instead of us.

We'll look more into the Gospel as revealed in the Flood story in a later edition.

Maybe, Maybe Not..



Review the evidence for yourself at
<http://tinyurl.com/NoahsArkPark>