

*"Never talk about money, religion
or politics"*

Disclaimer

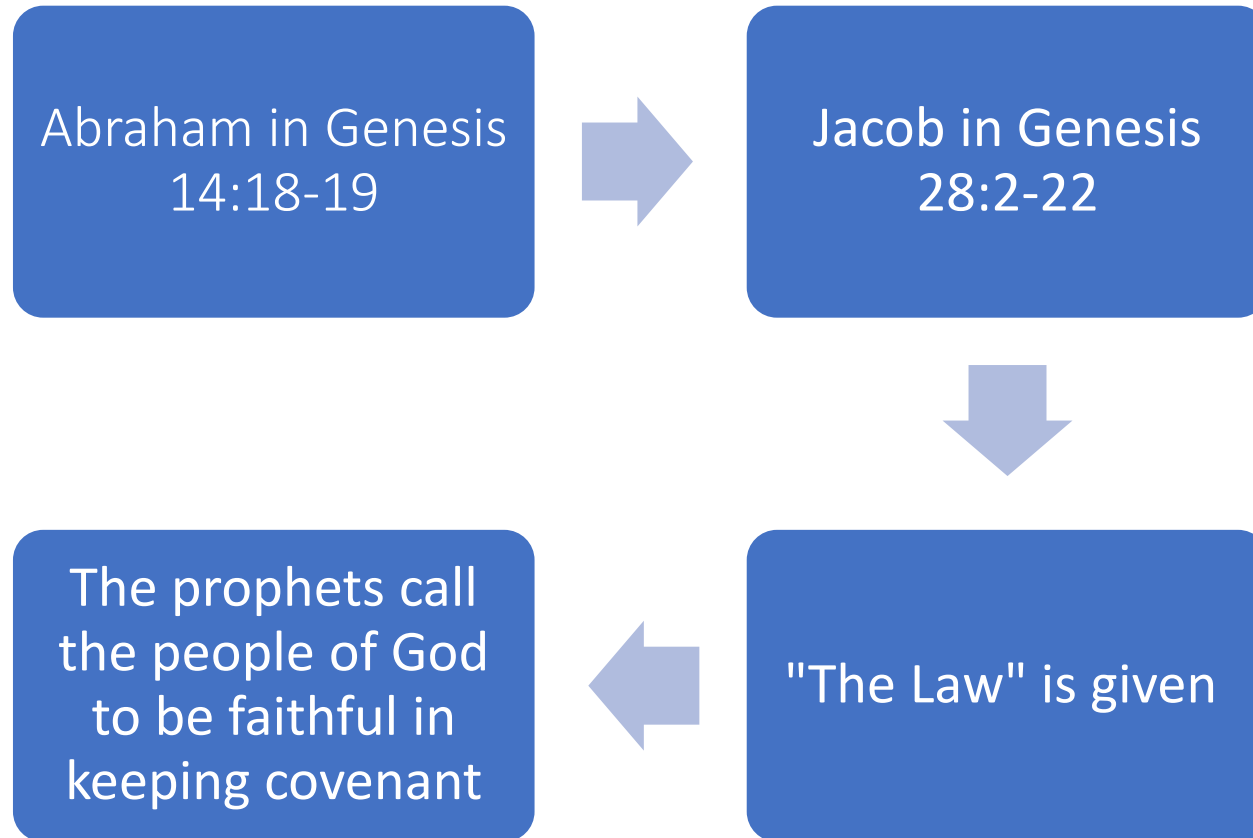
Questions to consider... be honest!!!

- Who, if anyone do I talk to about money?
- Has the way my family talked about money/viewed money influenced or shaped my own approach?
- How do I decide how to spend money?
- How do I decide how much to give away and where?
- What is my relationship with/to money?
- How do I feel when I'm asked for money?

Our starting point

- Everything we have is from God and ***all we have is first and foremost His***
- The backdrop is a ***covenant relationship*** not just a contract
- There is a call to ***generous, costly, sacrificial*** giving throughout scripture with an inescapable emphasis on our finances

The Tithe in the Old Testament



Malachi 3:6-12 New International Version (NIV)

Breaking Covenant by Withholding Tithes

⁶ “I the LORD do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed. ⁷ Ever since the time of your ancestors you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty.

“But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

⁸ “Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me.

“But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’

“In tithes and offerings.

⁹ You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. ¹⁰ Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. ¹¹ I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,” says the LORD Almighty. ¹² “Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,” says the LORD Almighty.

Will you let Him be your God?

- "I the Lord do not change" v 6
- God has promised to be our sustainer, provider and firm foundation in the best and worst of times
- "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" James 1:17
- The act of tithing requires a level of trust that goes beyond what we can immediately see- "God you've got this"

How much and where?

- Robbing God- this is serious!

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house" v 10

- Storehouse was the "treasury" of the Temple

God's promise

- God says:

"test me in this" is your giving causing you to rely on God?

- God says he will:

"pour out so much blessing that there will not be enough room to store it" Not necessarily about money

But what does Jesus say?

- ***Expectation of tithing*** (Matt 23:23, Luke 11:42)
- ***Warned about storing up treasures on earth*** (Matt 6:19-21)
- ***Jesus and the early Church went way beyond the tithe*** (Matthew 19:21, Acts 2:44-45)

Hints and tips

1. Set aside a regular time to review your finances
2. Be proactive in making savings elsewhere- ie utility bills, luxury items, other outgoings
3. Talk about it with friends, family and life group
4. Consider regular giving by standing order/direct debit- test it out!
5. It takes 66 days to form a new habit.. Set yourself some goals and make a start