

## Precious Promises

1. ARE the promises of God like those of men? Titus 1: 2; 2 Peter 3: 9.
2. How did God confirm the promise to Abraham? Heb. 6: 13.
3. Why did God add this oath to His word of promise? Heb. 6: 16-18.
4. What wonderful history shows how God fulfills His promises? Joshua 21: 43-45.
5. What is God's promise to those who seek Him first? Matt. 6: 33.
6. What wonderful promise is made to all who faithfully return the tithe and give offerings to God's work? Mal. 3: 10, 11, 12. Note 1.
7. How much of all that we have belongs to God? Gen. 14: 19, 22; Ex. 9: 29; Deut. 10: 14; 1 Cor. 10: 26, 28.
8. What particular things are mentioned?—Land (Lev. 25: 23); beasts (Ps. 50: 10, 12); fruit and grains (Eze. 16: 18, 19; Hosea 2: 8, 9); silver and gold (Haggai 2: 8).
9. Of all that He gives us how much does He claim as His own?—One tenth. Lev. 27: 30, 32; Mal. 3: 8.
10. Did Jesus teach tithe paying? Matt. 23: 23. Note 2.
11. If we lay our plans before God, what is His promise? Ps. 37: 3-5; Isa. 41: 17; 33: 16.
12. What promises concern every believer today? John 14: 1-3; 2 Peter 3: 13.

Notes on Reading No. 25

NOTE 1.—“So far as known to the writer, there is but one evangelical denomination in the world which accepts the tithe as a church tenet and belief, and regards the law of the tithe as of the same binding force as the law of the Sabbath. I refer to the Seventh-day Adventists. While the percentage of their growth in church membership has been large, having increased in all the world from 5,440 in 1870 to 104,526 in 1910, the financial results of their recognition of the law of the tithe are far more remarkable.”—*A Layman, in “Tithing and Tithing Reminiscences.”*

NOTE 2.—“As Christ’s priesthood succeeded the Aaronic or Levitical priesthood, which was supported by the tithes of Israel; and as Christ was made a priest after the order of Melchizedek, who received tithes of the patriarchs before the Levitical priesthood was ordained, it is but logical and natural to conclude that the ministry under Christ’s priesthood should be supported by the same means as were both of these priesthoods,—the tithes of God’s people.”—*“Bible Readings for the Home Circle,” p. 659.*

GENERAL NOTE.—“The supreme purpose of the tithe is to develop character and test our loyalty to God. The payment of the tithe when there is no compulsion and no pressure brought to bear, when it is a matter of clear conscience between yourself and God, will develop in you those sterling qualities that will make you worth while in the kingdom.

“The Bible designates two sources of revenue,—tithes and freewill offerings. The tithe is the Lord’s whether we keep it or pay it to Him, not because He needs it in His business, but because it is dishonest to keep what does not belong to us.

“The tithe is our just debt to God, and should be paid promptly and cheerfully, like any other debt. God has no need of our money (seeing all is His), but requires His share just to remind us that we are in partnership with Him. Just as the tribute money paid to Cæsar was a recognition of his authority, so the tithe is the recognition of God’s interest in every dollar we receive.”—*“Tithing,” compiled by C. Vernon Fox, M. D., p. 4.*