



## **BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS**

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

**A1588 ~ A Revival of Godliness.**

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*Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.*

A missionary served for many years in a little town on the rocky coast of northern Chile. In time, the congregation grew to being about eighty adults. The missionary was concerned that the Christians in the area seemed unable to support their own national pastor. The people were very poor and the church offerings were far too low even to pay for the church's bills.

One day, the missionary brought this problem before the Lord during a special time of prayer. A few weeks later, he visited a middle-aged couple who were new converts and had begun the habit of reading their Bibles every day. "What does 'tithing' mean?" they asked.

The missionary didn't really want to tell them because they were extremely poor. They lived off the income made from selling eggs from their twenty-five hens. But the man and his wife insisted on being told what 'tithing' was. The missionary opened his Bible to 1 Corinthians Chapter 16 and 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, where Paul urged believers to lay aside a portion of their income to the Lord each week.

On the following Sunday, the man gave the missionary an envelope with his tithe worth 19 cents. The next Sunday a week later, the couple excitedly told the missionary some good news. On the Tuesday after they had given their tithe, there was no food for breakfast, nor any money. They declined to take the tithe money that they had already set aside for God and decided not to eat breakfast. To their surprise when they went to the hen house there were eggs at a time of day when there were usually none.

During that day, someone came to buy chicken fertilizer from them. This meant the couple had enough money to buy some food. Soon after that, the man was given a job on a project that would last for two years.

Word got around the church and the others began experimenting with giving. The church's income began to rise dramatically and there was enough for the bills and a new pastor's income too. The missionary gave God thanks for the growth in the people's faith in God before moving on to a new area.

In today's Bible Adventure, Nehemiah was in the court of King Artaxerxes in Persia when he heard the people of Jerusalem and Judah were sinning greatly against the Lord. Nehemiah immediately sought permission from the king to return to Jerusalem to set things right. The Persian king, who was the step-son of Esther the Jewess, was very sympathetic and let Nehemiah go back again.

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DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

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The testimony of Nehemiah's life was faithfulness and loyalty to God. When the hard decisions had to be made, he didn't avoid them. He rebuked the leaders when they were doing wrong and made them set things right straight away. Even merchants, who were camping outside the walls of Jerusalem, waiting to entice people out of the city to buy their wares on the Sabbath day, were sternly warned not to come back or they'd face Nehemiah's consequences.

The new priest in charge of the Temple was scolded for allowing his son to marry a non-Jewish girl and this matter had to be set right.

After Nehemiah's death, the people and especially the priests sadly continued to stray away from God's rules. In time, God sent them a prophet called Malachi. Malachi's book is the last one in the Old Testament. The name "Malachi" means "my messenger."

Malachi, in Chapter 3, challenged the people to prove God's ability to provide for them by bringing Him all the tithes from their income into the storehouse of God. God promised to greatly bless them in return. He said: "And I will rebuke the devourer (that's the insects and plagues) for your sakes and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground."

Many years ago, two young men arrived in California with very little money. By carefully saving, they finally managed to purchase a farm. Now at that time, the money crop was cotton and the two brothers invested everything they could into sowing their first cotton crop.

When the cotton plants were just out of the ground, a huge sandstorm blew through the valley, destroying everything. The brothers were very unhappy. They called their pastor and asked him to visit them. As the pastor walked across the devastated fields, the brothers poured out their troubles. "Everything we had was in that crop. We don't have any money or credit left to replant. We are completely ruined. Now we will lose everything."

The pastor knew the brothers as dedicated Christians, active in their church and faithful in giving their tithes to the Lord. He tried to reassure them that things weren't really that bad. He said: "The God we serve raised His own Son from the dead after three days. I know He can raise cotton."

With this, the pastor sank to his knees in the dirt and prayed a simple prayer: “Father, these men are tithers. You said You would rebuke the devourer for a tither.

I am asking You to manifest the power of Your Word and fulfil that promise right here in this cotton field. Bring this cotton back and give these men a good crop in Jesus’ name.

Amen.” He arose, brushed the dust from his knees, and said: “That ought to take care of it.”

It did. A few days later the brothers called him back. There before their eyes, a good crop was rising from the ground. God had rebuked the devourer.

In Malachi, Chapter 2, God rebuked the men for divorcing their wives. When the young men got married, they promised to be faithful to their wives. God said: “Make sure that you don’t break your promise to be faithful to your wife” and ‘I hate divorce,’ says the Lord God of Israel.” Nehemiah used the words that divorce is an “abomination to the Lord,” which means that God detested and was disgusted with their behaviour, as He still is about divorce today.

Some people ask why Christians hold their worship services on a Sunday, rather than on the Saturday Sabbath-day. When God created the world, He rested on the seventh day of the week as a pattern for all people to follow. When Moses gave the Law to the Children of Israel, the fourth commandment listed in Exodus, Chapter 20, also commands the people to keep the Sabbath holy. They were to do no work but to spend the day in quiet meditation and not to pursue their own interests.

Yet when the Lord Jesus arose from the grave, He did so on the first day of the week. To honour Christ in what He did, Christians have met together on the first day of the week ever since then. Of course, they worship God in their daily devotions at home as well. But in Galatians, Chapter 5, it says: “If you are led by the (Holy) Spirit, you are not under the law.” So there is no obligation or need for Christians to keep the Saturday Sabbath from the Law of Moses to be right with God anymore.

Malachi said another thing too, that should worry anyone who doesn't believe that there is life after death. In every generation, there are people who love and serve the Lord. Malachi said that all the people who feared the Lord, spoke to one another and the Lord listened to all that they said. In His presence, a record of everything said and done by those who feared the Lord and respected Him was written down in a book. God said such people will be His very own and He will protect them on the Day of Judgment. Whether we like it or not, there are records being kept in heaven of what we say and do. Does hearing this trouble you?

If you can think of anything you wish you'd never said, done or even thought, there is forgiveness in the blood of Jesus Christ.

If we come to the Lord Jesus, humbling ourselves and asking Him for His forgiveness, He will blot out those sins from the records being kept in heaven. God promises they will never be brought to light again. What a blessing the Lord Jesus is to those who love Him and trust in His power to save them!

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MUSIC - [Integrity Music](#).

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That was Peter Penrose singing "Give and it will be given to you."

*The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.*

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