

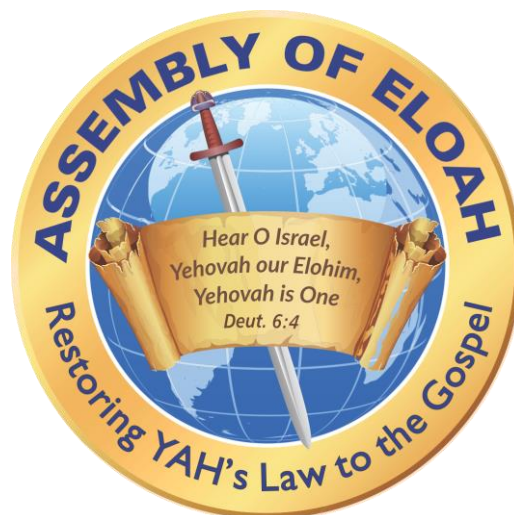
# Assembly of Eloah

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent -- Jesus Christ. Jn. 17:3

## How to Access Material Blessing

Edition 1

Why is it so hard to earn a living today? How can we achieve success and material prosperity?



P.O. Box 45 • Rockton • Ontario • Canada • L0R1X0 • [www.assemblyofeloah.org](http://www.assemblyofeloah.org)

This paper may be freely copied and distributed provided it is copied in total with no alterations or deletions. The publisher's name and address and copyright notice must be included. No charge may be levied on recipients of the distributed copies. Brief quotations may be embodied in critical articles and reviews without breaching copyright.

We will discuss the theme of material blessing and how to access it. This is extremely important because even the quality of our divine service depends on our own material condition.

Our desire is that each person can improve his situation quickly and wonderfully, by putting into practice what we are going to explain here, and which has always been the infallible secret of the people of Israel for generations until our days.

Generally speaking, we should know that there are two types of blessings:

1. The blessing that never depends on our merits, for example: Procreation.

From the very first page of the Bible, we read:

Genesis 1:27-31 So God created mankind in his own image;... God blessed the humans by saying to them, "Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth,..."

God therefore blesses the first human couple by granting them the gift of procreation and multiplication, and this blessing is not conditional on the obedience of any rule. Animals and plants also receive a similar blessing to multiply each after its kind. And until today, one can procreate even if one violates all the laws of God and morality. Pregnancy occurs even in cases of adultery, incest, rape, etc., it is an unconditional blessing. God does not take it away because we behave badly.

We must note, however, that procreation will be affected when we break the commandments of God. See Deuteronomy 8:4,11; 30:9; Leviticus 26:9.

2. The blessing that almost always depends on our merits, example: The material blessing.

It is said indeed:

Deuteronomy 30:9-10 and Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) your God will prosper you abundantly in all that you do, along with your children, your livestock, and the produce of your fields..., <sup>10</sup> IF YOU OBEY HIM AND KEEP HIS COMMANDS AND STATUTES THAT ARE WRITTEN IN THIS BOOK OF THE LAW...

We see here that the Bible attaches material blessing, material prosperity to our obedience to the commandments of God (Y<sup>e</sup>hovah), that is to say, to our behavior.

There are, of course, exceptions to these principles and you will have understood this in the wording.

There are cases when material blessing does not depend on our merits:

1. For example, if we have inherited wealth from our parents, as Proverbs 19:14 says: A house and self-sufficiency are a father's inheritance..., or if we benefit from the merits of our ancestors. In these cases, our own behavior is not taken into account for our success.

2. If we face our test of wealth; there too, we will be rich, regardless of our

behavior. This is partly why we see many bad guys thrive.

On the other hand, we can also be poor, even if we behave well, simply because we undergo our poverty test. In this case, all our efforts will not succeed in enriching us, as long as this trial lasts. We will have with great difficulty our subsistence. And it is a great merit for those who are better off to help such people who survive with great difficulty, by providing them with help for their basic needs from time to time. It is useless to try to enrich such people, they will not be able to enrich themselves; you just have to support them on a day-to-day basis.

That's why the Bible says:

Deuteronomy 15:11 Since poor people won't cease to exist in the land, I'm commanding you: Be sure to display generosity to your poor and needy relatives in your land."

Because everyone goes through the test of poverty and everyone also goes through the test of wealth. In each of these trials, God wants to see how you behave, how you remain faithful to Him in wealth as in poverty, in health as in illness, in family success as in family failure.

Apart from those who suffer a test of poverty in their daily lives (who are poor whatever they do) and apart from those who suffer a test of wealth (who are rich whatever they do), the Bible indicates that material blessing generally depends on our own behavior. And this blessing is manifested in prosperity in all areas: agricultural prosperity

(Deuteronomy 28:3-5, 11-12), financial prosperity, well-being in other activities (Deuteronomy 28:3, 6, 8, 12), victory over enemies (Deuteronomy 28:7, 10), etc.

DOES THE BIBLE ENCOURAGE WEALTH OR DOES IT DISCOURAGE IT?

It is enough to read the Bible and even the prophets to understand that poverty is always described there as a scourge, a curse, while wealth is described there as a blessing. It does not say anywhere in the Bible "Happy are the poor", because it is obvious that a poor person cannot be happy. He who lacks everything cannot be satisfied with his condition.

It is moreover because poverty is not an enviable state that God insistently enjoins us to take care of the poor, as it is said:

Deuteronomy 15:7-8 "If there should be a poor man among your relatives in one of the cities of the land that the Lord your God is about to give you, don't be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your poor relative.<sup>8</sup> Instead, be sure to open your hand to him and lend him enough to lessen his need.

The Bible even requires farm owners not to fully exploit their crops and to leave part of them for the needy and the destitute.

Leviticus 19:9-10 "When you reap the harvest of your land, you are not to completely finish harvesting the corners of the field—that is, you are not to pick what remains after you have reaped your harvest.<sup>10</sup> You are not to gather your vineyard or pick up the fallen grapes of your vineyard. Leave something for the poor and the resident alien who lives among you. I am Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the

Lord) your God.”

Moreover, the Bible asks us not to let a rich or wealthy man become impoverished near us, but to support him as soon as we see his fortune falter, in order to get him out of his predicament to maintain his status.

Leviticus 25:35 “If your relative becomes so poor that he is indebted to you, then you are to support him. You are to let him live with you just like the resident alien and the traveler.

The Jews teach that he who helps his neighbor should not do so to the point of impoverishing himself. They say: we will not give less than 10% of our income to help others. Because, the one who spends less than 10% of his income for others is a miserly man. But we will not give too much either, so as not to become poor in turn. You can spend up to 20% of your income on others. And he who spends 20% of his income to help others is called generous.

All this clearly indicates that the Bible does not encourage poverty, since it says, on the contrary: "There will be no poor among you" (Deuteronomy 15:7). In other words, one should not become accustomed to the existing poverty; we must fight it, repel it; we must strive to eradicate it. We should not be happy to be poor and we should not be happy that there are poor people among us. Because poverty is not part of the normal order of things. It is just the fruit of the transgression by man of the fundamental principles which govern Creation, as it is said in Proverbs 13:18:

Poverty and shame are for those who ignore correction...

In summary, the many laws aimed at relieving the suffering of the poor, as well as the many promises of prosperity addressed to those who would obey the laws of the Bible, the fact that it is necessary to support the one whose fortune staggers so that he does not become impoverished, etc., all this does show that God prefers that we are all well-to-do or rich, but allows poverty only to impel us to meditate on our misbehavior and return to Him, as it is said in Haggai 1:5-7.

Haggai 1:5-7 “Now this is what Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) of the Heavenly Armies, says: ‘Carefully consider your ways: <sup>6</sup> You have sowed much but have reaped little. You have eaten but don’t have enough to become satisfied. You have drunk but don’t have enough to become intoxicated. You have clothed yourself but don’t have enough to keep warm. And the hired laborer deposits his salary in a bag full of holes!’” <sup>7</sup> “This is what Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) of the Heavenly Armies says: ‘Carefully consider your ways:

If this is so, if the Bible encourages wealth and if God wishes our prosperity, we can ask ourselves the following questions:

- Why is it so hard to earn a living today?
- How can we achieve success and material prosperity?
- What behaviours promote material blessing?
- What are the behaviors that prevent material blessing?

- What should I do with my wealth in case God blesses me?

We have previously explained that the Bible does not exalt poverty or deprivation at all.

Deuteronomy 15:4 Moreover, there will be no poor person among you, for Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) will surely bless you in the land that he is about to give you to possess.

God continually promises blessing to those who keep His commandments. And we can testify to the fact that throughout the Bible, everyone who walked with God was materially blessed (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, Solomon, Job, etc.). And the very fact of material prosperity is, according to the Bible, a clear sign of Divine favor, as can be seen in the following verses:

Genesis 39:2-3 But Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) was with Joseph. He became a very prosperous man while in the house of his Egyptian master, <sup>3</sup> who could see that Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) was with Joseph, because Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) made everything prosper that Joseph did.

Material blessing is therefore one of the very signs of a good relationship with God.

We are now going to develop the points that we had questioned.

I- WHY IS IT SO DIFFICULT TO MAKE A LIVING TODAY?

In general, the lack of success for an individual or for a society often indicates that this individual or this society leads a

life not in conformity with the will of God, and contrary to the principles which promote success.

According to the Jews, there are 613 commandments in the Bible, which correspond to the 613 organs of the human body and the 613 parts of the soul. Each command acts on a specific aspect of man's existence (of his body and his soul). So there are commandments that act on prosperity, others on health, and so on.

According to them, each commandment helps us to harmoniously build one or more particular aspects of our existence. Like food, which contains many nutrients and vitamins, and each nutrient acts on a particular aspect of our growth or maintenance (Vitamin A, for example, maintains good eye health, vitamin C allows the body's defenses to better fight external threats, Calcium helps build bones and teeth, etc.), similarly the Bible is spiritual food for our souls, and each commandment is like a nutrient or vitamin.

When we study the Bible and put it into practice, it develops different aspects of our life and soul. Because of our ignorance, we do not take into account these different aspects of the Bible and, consequently, our life is a disaster on the material plane and on other planes as well. Because, the fact of not knowing does not change anything. Even he who does not know that fire burns will be burned if he puts his hand in the fire. This is why it is said: "My people are destroyed because they lack knowledge of me." (Hosea 4:6)

And because each generation reproduces the same errors, we stagnate under misery, disease and failure from generation to generation; life goes on deteriorating instead of improving, hopes are constantly disappointed, etc.

We will therefore explore the aspects of the Bible that influence material success, since this is our subject.

### HOW TO BENEFIT FROM MATERIAL SUCCESS AND PROSPERITY?

#### 1. You have to work.

The first step to improving your material condition is to work. Work is a top priority. So we must do something, we must find an occupation. For God blesses the work of our hands. This means that He sends His blessing on what we are already doing.

Isaiah 30:23: He will also provide rain for your seed that you sow in the ground, and the food that comes from the ground will be rich and abundant. At that time, your cattle will graze in broad meadows,...

In the context of this verse, therefore, you must at least have sown the ground, acquired animals to raise, etc., so that the blessing multiplies them.

This is what is said about Isaac.

Genesis 26:12-14 Isaac received a 100-fold return on what he planted that year in the land he received, because Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) blessed him. <sup>13</sup> He became very wealthy and lived a life of wealth, becoming more and more wealthy. <sup>14</sup> He owned so many sheep, cattle, and servants that the Philistines

eventually became envious of him.

Whoever wants to get rich must therefore practice an activity on which the blessing can rest, an activity capable of enriching. He should not cross his arms. He can start with one thing and while he does that thing, think about something better.

Ecclesiastes 11:6 Sow your seed in the morning, and don't stop working until evening, since you don't know which of your endeavors will do well, whether this one or that, or even if both will do equally well.

Also, laziness also prevents getting rich.

Proverbs 28:19 Whoever works his farmland will have abundant food, but whoever chases fantasies will become very poor.

Proverbs 21:25 What the lazy person craves will kill him, because his hands refuse to work.

Moreover, an idler is dangerous for the community, because he can come to robbery and thus harm society.

As much as possible, it is better to work for yourself. Even a public servant or employee will not hesitate to have other parallel activities, work on his own. Trade and agriculture were the best means of producing wealth in biblical times. Nowadays, several sectors of activity have been added.

#### 2. You have to pray.

We must also pray for our sustenance, because prayer reminds us, Who is really the One who feeds the whole world.

John 16:24 So far you haven't asked for

anything in my name. Keep asking and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

However, working and praying are not enough. There are behaviors that promote blessing or that hinder it.

We will begin to explain behaviors that promote material blessing and those that inhibit them.

### **Behaviors that promote blessing.**

We recently explained that a man who wanted material blessing should not only pray for it, but also undertake an activity, so that God could bless the work of his hands.

The Zohar, which is a mosaic of biblical interpretation, explains this in these terms:

"It is the prayer of man that attracts blessings down here".

And also:

"No movement occurs in heaven without the prior impulse from below. Likewise, the blessings from above can only be effective here below when something real already exists, that is, in order to obtain the heavenly blessing, something must already be possessed; for blessing can have no effect on emptiness. Where do we know that from? We know it from the woman of Obadiah to whom the prophet Elisha asked: "Tell me, what have you got in your house? because the blessings from above cannot extend to emptiness. The prophet replied: Your

words reassure me; because I did not know how to attract blessings from above on a house where there is nothing. But, since you have a little oil, the blessings will be able to spread on your house."

2 Kings 4:1-7 Now there happened to be a certain woman who had been the wife of a member of the Guild of Prophets. She cried out to Elisha, "My husband who served you has died, and you know that your servant feared Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord). But a creditor has come to take away my children into indentured servitude!" <sup>2</sup> Elisha responded, "What shall I do for you? Tell me what you have in your house." She replied, "Your servant has nothing in the entire house except for a flask of oil." <sup>3</sup> He told her, "Go out to all of your neighbors in the surrounding streets and borrow lots of pots from them. Don't get just a few empty vessels, either. <sup>4</sup> Then go in and shut the door behind you, taking only your children, and pour oil into all of the pots. As each one is filled, set it aside." <sup>5</sup> So she left Elisha, shut the door behind her and her children, and while they kept on bringing vessels to her, she kept on pouring oil. <sup>6</sup> When the last of the vessels had been filled, she told her son, "Bring me another pot!" But he replied, "There isn't even one pot left." Then the oil stopped flowing. <sup>7</sup> After this, she went and told the man of God what had happened. So he said, "Go sell the oil, pay your debt, and you and your children will be able to live on the proceeds."

It is therefore clear that because of the principle that God blesses the work of our hands, it is necessary for the one who wants to be blessed on the material level to undertake an activity, or to take steps that can lead to a blessing, and not to sit with your arms crossed or lying in bed.

We will now continue our explanation by bringing up the following point:

## WHAT ARE THE BEHAVIORS THAT PROMOTE MATERIAL BLESSING?

According to the Bible and according to the teachers of Judaism, certain behaviors, certain actions attract material blessing upon us. The most important is paying tithes.

### ABOUT TITHING

The first foundation of material blessing is tithing, as it says:

Malachi 3:10 Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. So put me to the test in this right now," says Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) of the Heavenly Armies, "and see if I won't throw open the windows of heaven for you and pour out on you blessing without measure.

Thus, a man who undertakes, but has trouble getting by materially, the first thing he must check is tithing. For, we are taught that he who does not pay his tithe ends up impoverished.

Malachi 3:8-9 Will a person rob God? Yet you are robbing me! But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' "By the tithe and the offering. <sup>9</sup> You are cursed under the curse—the entire nation—because you are robbing me!

The teachers of Judaism teach that everything we have belongs to God, who gives it to us as "managers" and not as owners. The manager of a bank cannot do everything he wants with the money entrusted to him. He spends according to the owner's instructions. It is the same for everything that God entrusts to us. We have to manage it in the way that He has told us: 10% for Him, and 90% for

ourselves and our neighbor. He who manages in this way receives the blessing in return, as the verse above says. On the other hand, the one who does not pay his tithe is cursed. And what is this curse? He will become impoverished.

In fact, the Bible specifies the exact nature of this curse in the following verse of Numbers 5:10, a verse very poorly translated in the Christian Bibles:

"And every man, his holy things (ie tithes) will be his; but as soon as he has given them to the priest (servant of God), it will belong to the latter."

Rashi comments: «and each man, his holy things will be his own» means, according to a midrash (the particular mode of interpretation of the Hebrew Bible), that he who retains his tithes without giving them will effectively keep them. His field will produce only a tenth of what it usually produces. While the one who gives to the servant of Y<sup>e</sup>hovah, an elder of the Assembly of Eloah what belongs to him will withdraw from his gesture a lot of money.

In other words, when God gives us two parts (90% and 10%), we cannot keep them both; we can only take one. If we choose to keep the tithe, God considers that it is what we have chosen, and He takes the 90% (which will then evaporate in all kinds of expenses that are not profitable for us, for example at the doctor, etc.), then He will start giving us only 10% of what He had planned to often give us.



But, if we give Him 10%, if we tithe, then He lets us enjoy the 90%.

There is a story in the Talmud that illustrates this.

A peasant used to harvest 100 bags of wheat from his field every year, which enabled him to live comfortably. However, he never forgot to bring the Levite 10 bags of wheat, representing the tithe of his harvest. When he was about to die, he called his only son and told him to take care of the plantation, and above all to continue to pay tithes faithfully.

After the father's death, the son did indeed collect 100 bags in the first year. But he neglected to deposit 10 bags with the Levite. The following year his harvest declined and after a few years he harvested only 10 bags. He did not understand what was happening to him, until a friend of his father came to explain to him that his harvest had decreased by 90% because he did not pay his tithe. So he decided to make amends and began to pay the tithe of the harvest each year. Production improved from year to year, and after a few years the field returned to its normal production of 100 bags.

All this indicates that a man to whom God had planned to give, for example, 100 million during the course of a year, if he neglects his tithe, will finally enjoy only 10 million, because, by keeping his tithe, he chose 10%. But if he faithfully pays his tithe, he will receive the 100 million and will be able to enjoy

90 million, because he has been faithful in paying his tithe.

So far, we have begun to explain what one must do, according to the Bible and the teachers of Judaism, to access material blessing. We also mentioned that keeping the commandment to tithe topped the list of actions that promote material blessing. Indeed, the teachers of Judaism teach that by giving one's tithe, one derives increased blessing and success in all favorable areas.

It follows that the commandment to tithe is one of the commandments by which each and everyone can free themselves from all the unfortunate elements of their life, and permanently possess joy and abundance, in good health, in material and spiritual largesse, as the Bible itself says:

Malachi 3:10-12 Bring the entire tithe into the storehouse that there may be food in my house. So put me to the test in this right now," says Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) of the Heavenly Armies, "and see if I won't throw open the windows of heaven for you and pour out on you blessing without measure. <sup>11</sup> And I'll prevent the devourer from harming you, so that he does not destroy the crops of your land. Nor will the vines in your fields drop their fruit," says Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) of the Heavenly Armies. <sup>12</sup> "Then all the nations will call you blessed, for you will be a land of delight," says Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) of the Heavenly Armies....

We will now explain why this commandment is so important, who is concerned by the commandment and what it consists of concretely.

1. The importance of the commandment of tithing

This commandment is one of the most important because it is linked to humility and the fear of God.

Tithing implies humility, for he who gives his tithe recognizes by this that all that he possesses comes from God, who willingly gave it to him, and not from his own strength or his own intelligence, as it is said:

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 You may say to yourselves, 'I have become wealthy by my own strength and by my own ability.'<sup>18</sup> But remember Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) your God, because he is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth, in order to confirm his covenant that he promised by an oath to your ancestors, as is the case today.

God gives good things to a person who tithes, because He knows that this person is humble, and it says:

Proverbs 15:33 ...humility precedes honor.

The one, on the other hand, who refuses to pay his tithe, thinks that what he has belongs to him, and even that he has deserved it, thanks to his efforts, etc. It is pride, and it is said:

Proverbs 16:18 Pride precedes destruction;

Such a person does not receive a blessing, as it is said:

Malachi 3:8-9 ... Yet you are robbing me! ... "By the tithe and the offering.<sup>9</sup> You are cursed under the curse—the entire nation—because you are robbing me!"

Tithing also implies the fear of God, for whoever gives his tithe obeys a Divine

commandment, and thereby expresses his fear of God.

And the fear of God is the lock that protects man from pride and fault.

Moreover, tithing is so important that it is the only commandment on which God authorizes man to put Him to the test, as it is said:

Malachi 3:10 So put me to the test in this right now," says Y<sup>e</sup>hovah (the Lord) of the Heavenly Armies, "and see..."

2. Who is concerned with the tithing command?

All adults: men and women, rich and poor. In the Bible, a person is considered an adult when that person reach the age of 20.

However, in a couple, both spouses are considered as one person. Therefore, if the husband has already tithed his earnings, the wife will no longer tithe the money her husband gives her, and vice versa. If the wife has already given the tithe from her income, the man will not tithe the money that his wife gives him. However, when the man and his wife each have an income, both must tithe.

Children and youth under the age of 20 are excluded from the tithe commandment. However, they will certainly be blessed if they decide to tithe. Furthermore, they must be accustomed before this age to give the tithe of their income, as it is said:

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way appropriate for him, and when he becomes

older, he will not turn from it.

Amen, Y<sup>e</sup>hovah

Children and youth under the age of 20 do not have to take tithes from the money offered by their parents.

To be continued

### 3. What income is affected by tithing?

- All income obtained in a correct way is subject to tithing: financial gains related to lucrative activities or investments, salary, etc.). In the case of a trade, it is the profit that is considered income.

- We will not give tithes on income from theft, or prostitution, etc. because they were obtained by breaking the commandments of God.

- A person who did not pay his tithe and who now repent does not need to give tithes on sums collected before his repentance, but it is enough that he begins to do so now.

- If it happens that one was obliged to use his tithe before having paid it (if one goes through a difficult period, for example), one will have to repay it with a penalty of 20%. One cannot however use one's tithe on the occasion of a bereavement.

One of the purposes of the law of tithing is to constantly remind man that everything he possesses is a gift from God, and therefore he does not need to be proud of it.

Therefore, every God-fearing adult is concerned with fulfilling the law of tithing.