

First Things First



Week Eleven

inTro



Read This Week's Passage:
Malachi 3:7–12

THREE DREAMS

After receiving the Adventist message in the 1940s through Daniel Lewis, the first Adventist missionary to Albania, Meropi Gjika, got caught in the religious oppression of her country.

For more than 40 years, Gjika had three dreams and got to see two of them happen in her lifetime. The first was to her baptism. Having waited fifty years, she eventually went into the watery grave when Communist rule ended. Her second dream was to see the construction of an Adventist church building in Tirana, her hometown. Though she never saw it with her own eyes, the Tirana-Center Adventist Church was eventually inaugurated in 2017, years after her death. Her third and most well-known desire was to return her tithe and offerings to the church. For exactly 46 years she had no contact with the outside Adventist church, yet she heeded the biblical principle of stewardship and set aside her tithe and offerings. Though Albania was one of the poorest countries in Eastern Europe, she never “borrowed” from this fund but placed the money in biscuit tins that she hid under her bed.

Gjika read three chapters of the Bible each day and five on Sabbath. Through her devotional life and Bible study, she was convicted to obey the biblical principles of stewardship. She knew this to be the will of God, and through her trials, God sustained her through thick and thin. How was Sister Gjika so sure that this was the will of God? Does God have counsel regarding finances? This week's lesson looks at tithe—the biblical number going to the biblical place for the biblical purpose in the biblical manner.



inScribe

Write out Malachi 3:7–12 from the translation of your choice. You may also rewrite the passage in your own words, outline, or mind map the chapter.



Go back to your scribed text and study the passage.

Circle repeated words/phrases/ideas

Underline words/phrases that are important and have meaning to you



Draw **Arrows** to connect words/phrases to other associated or related words/phrases

What special insights do your marks seem overall to point to?



Memorize your favorite verse in Malachi 3:7–12. Write it out multiple times to help with memorization.

How are your financial stewardship habits today?



Read more at www.inverseible.org/will11-3

A large grid of dots for writing answers to the questions above.



After looking at your scribed and annotated text, what special insights do your marks overall seem to point to?



What questions emerge after studying this passage? What parts are difficult?

What other principles and conclusions do you find?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will11-4



What relationship do the following verses have with the primary passage?

- Isaiah 56:7
- 2 Chronicles 31:1-10
- Matthew 23:23-27
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15



What other verses/promises come to mind in connection with tithes and offerings?

Review your memorized verse from Malachi 3:7-12.



Where is Jesus in the midst of the prophecies of Malachi 3:7-12?



Where is Jesus in your stewardship?

What is He saying to you through these texts?

How do you see Jesus differently or see Him again?

Prayer: How do you respond to seeing Jesus in this way?



Read more at
www.inverseible.org/will11-6



Review the memory verse.
How does it apply to your
life this week?



After this week's study of the
chapter, what are personal
applications you are convicted of
in your life?

What are practical applications
you must make in your school,
family, workplace, and church?

A large grid of small dots for writing answers to the reflection questions.



Read more inSight from the
Spirit of Prophecy at
www.inverseible.org/will11-7



Share insights from this week's memory verse and Bible study as well as any discoveries, observations, and questions with your Sabbath School class (or Bible study group). Consider these discussion questions with the rest of the group.



How have your stewardship habits been challenged?

Why is tithe important for God?

What is the meaning behind the number "one of ten"?

How do policy and auditing systems play into our spiritual development?

How can the concept of storehouse be hijacked?

What does Jesus have to say about tithe?

How do you overcome concerns about potential financial abuses in the church?

What is the end goal of tithes and offerings?

How has God's will for your life changed your financial habits?