# Word Study <sup>H4643</sup> *maaser* tithe tenth <sup>G536</sup> *aparche* <sup>G1181</sup> *dekate* <sup>G1182</sup> *dekatos*

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## Introduction

I'm interested in this word study because of tithing…a biblical income tax set at 10%.

### Gen 14:18-20 and He (Abram or Melchizedek) tithes

<sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: <sup>20</sup> And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes <sup>maaser H4643</sup> of all.

## H4643 *maaser* <sup>KJC:32</sup> tithe(s)(ing), tenth

## מַעֲשֵׂר / מַעֲשַׂר / מַעַשְׂרָה

From H6240; a *tenth*; especially a *tithe:* - tenth (part), tithe (-ing).

LXX related word(s)

| G536 *ap arche* | G1181 *dekate* | G1182 *dekatos* |
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**Total KJV Occurrences:** 32

**tithes, 16** Gen 14:20, Lev 27:31, Num 18:24, Num 18:26, Num 18:28, Deu 12:6, Deu 26:11-12 (2), 2Ch

31:12, Neh 10:37-38 (2), Neh 12:44, Neh 13:5, Amo 4:4, Mal 3:8, Mal 3:10

**tithe, 11** Lev 27:30, Lev 27:32, Num 18:26, Deu 12:17, Deu 14:23, Deu 14:28, 2Ch 31:5-6 (3), Neh 10:38, Neh 13:12

**tenth, 4** Num 18:21, Num 18:26, Eze 45:11, Eze 45:14

**tithing, 1** Deu 26:12

WordStudy®

A masculine noun meaning tithe, tenth. This word is related to *ʿéśer* (H6235), meaning ten, and often means tenth (Gen 14:20; Eze 45:11, Eze 45:14). In the Levitical system of the Old Testament, this word refers to the tenth part, which came to be known as the tithe. Israelites were to tithe from their land, herds, flocks, and other sources (Lev 27:30-32). Such tithes were intended to support the Levites in their priestly duties (Num 18:21, Num 18:24, Num 18:26, Num 18:28); as well as strangers, orphans, and widows (Deu 26:12). When Israel failed to give the tithe, it was a demonstration of their disobedience (Mal 3:8, Mal 3:10); when they reinstituted the tithe, it was a sign of reform, as in Hezekiah's (2Ch 31:5-6, 2Ch 31:12) and Nehemiah's times (Neh 10:37-38 [38-39]; Neh 12:44).

# G536 *aparche* <sup>KJC:8</sup> firstfruit(s)

## ἀπαρχή

**WordStudy®**

gen. *aparchḗs*, fem. noun from *apárchomai* (n.f.), from *apó* (G575), from, and *árchomai* (G756), to begin. Firstfruits (but in the Gr. always sing.), the first of the ripe fruits (Sept.: Exo 25:2-3, "offering"; 2Ch 30:24 KJV; 2Ch 35:7, 2Ch 35:9). Such firstfruits were usually offered to God (Sept.: Exo 23:19; Lev 23:10). Applied to Christ risen from the dead (1Co 15:20, 1Co 15:23); to the gifts of the Holy Spirit as a foretaste of the believer's eternal inheritance (Rom 8:23 [cf. Eph 1:14]; Heb 6:5); to believers first converted in any particular place or country (Rom 16:5; 1Co 16:15); to believers in general consecrated to God from among the rest of mankind (Jas 1:18; Rev 14:4); to the patriarchs and ancestors of the Jewish people (Rom 11:16). The OT ordinance was to give a heave offering of dough as firstfruits (Num 15:20 f.).

**Syn**.: *prō̂tos* (G4413), beginning, first.

**Ant**.: *hústeros* (G5306), later, at the end; *télos* (G5056), termination, end.

**Total KJV Occurrences:** 8

**firstfruits, 7** Rom 8:23, Rom 11:16, Rom 16:5, 1Co 15:20, 1Co 15:23, 1Co 16:15, Jam 1:18, Rev 14:4

# G1181 *dekate* <sup>KJC:2</sup> tenth <sup>Heb 7:1-2, Heb 7:4</sup>; tithes: <sup>Heb 7:8</sup>

## δεκάτη

**WordStudy®**

gen. *dekátēs*, the fem. of *dékatos* (G1182). A tithe (Heb 7:8-9 [cf. Gen 14:20]). The fem. noun *merís* (G3310), portion, is understood as following it. A tenth part (Heb 7:2, Heb 7:4). The Jewish law required that a tenth be paid both from the produce of the earth and the increase of the flocks to the Lord (Lev 27:30-32). The payment of tithe was a widespread practice among the Semitic and non- Semitic people. Besides Abraham paying tithes of the spoil to Melchizedek (Gen. 14), Jacob at Bethel also made a conditional vow to pay God a tenth of all that He gave to him (Gen 28:22).

The cattle were tithed by letting them pass out of an enclosure, under a rod held by some person who touched every tenth beast. This thereupon became the property of the Levites so that, if the animal was changed, both the original and the substitute were forfeited (Lev 27:32-33). It does not appear that a tithe of herbs was demanded.The Pharisees, however, tithed their mint, anise, cummin, and rue. However, it was not for this that our Savior condemned them, but for neglecting more important things, such as mercy, judgment, and faith, while they were so scrupulously exact in matters of little importance (Mat 23:23).

In the NT, the tithe is not stressed because in the OT it was compulsory and was considered a means of earning favor with God. The Jews were prone to do the external and material while neglecting the expression of the inner qualities of the spirit (Luk 11:37-42). The Christian, however, is urged to give voluntarily (2Co 9:7) without neglecting the development of spiritual qualities. Noteworthy is Luk 11:41, "But rather give alms of such things as ye have." The word here is *enónta*, from *éneimi* (G1751), to be within, meaning those things which are inside you, i.e., the spiritual qualities. The Christian is also to be a joyous (*hilarós* [G2431], cheerful) giver, propitious of mercy.

In the OT, the Lord's tithe (Lev 27:30), the festival tithe (Deu 12:10-11), and the tithe for the poor (Deu 14:28-29), were all compulsory. In addition to these, however, there was voluntary giving which included the firstfruits giving and freewill offerings. An Israelite who loved God voluntarily gave the firstfruits of his crop to Him. He did this before he had harvested the entire crop and did not yet know how much he would reap. Firstfruits giving was giving the best to God and trusting Him to provide a harvest. It was giving by faith. See Exo 25:2 as to how Moses built the tabernacle. Such voluntary giving has a promise attached to it (Pro 3:9-10). 2Co 8:1-7; 2Co 9:6-9 deal with this voluntary grace of Christian giving as well as Jesus' promise in Luk 6:38. Christian giving is characterized by what Paul wrote to Philemon, "That thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly" (Phm 1:14).

**Deriv**.: *dekatóō* (G1183), to pay tithes.

# G1182 *dekatos* ᴷᴶᶜ:³ tenth ᴶᵒʰ ¹:³⁹, ᴿᵉᵛ ¹¹:¹³, ᴿᵉᵛ ²¹:²⁰

## δέκατος

**WordStudy®**

*dékatos*; fem. *dekátē* (G1181), neut. *dékaton*, adj. from *déka* (G1176), ten. Tenth (Joh 1:39; Rev 11:13; Rev 21:20). When used with the def. art. *tó dékaton*, it means the tenth part, the tithe (Sept.: Lev 5:11; Lev 27:32; Eze 45:11). See *dekátē* (G1181) for the discussion of the tithe in the OT and the teaching of giving in the NT.

**Deriv**.: *pentekaidékatos* (G4003), the fifteenth; *tessareskaidékatos* (G5065), fourteenth.

# H6240 *asar* <sup>KJC:301</sup> an adjective 10, twelve/twelfth[110], fourteenth[23], sixteenth[22] …
עֶשָׂר

For H6235; *ten* (only in combination), that is, the *"teens"*; also (ordinal) a *"teenth": -* [eigh-, fif-, four-, nine-, seven-, six-, thir-] teen (-th), + eleven (-th), + sixscore thousand, + twelve (-th).

**WordStudy®**

A numerical noun**, an adjective, ten**, used in combination with other numerals from eleven to nineteen. Used with masculine nouns, *'aḥaḏ ʿaśār*, eleven (Gen 32:22 [23]). With feminine nouns, it has a companion form

*ʿeśrēh*, e.g., *ḥᵃmēš ʿeśrēh*, fifteen (years) (Gen 5:10). It is used both as a cardinal (counting) number and an

ordinal number. Hence, *'aḥat ʿeśrēh*, eleven (feminine) *'aḥaḏ ʿāśār* (masculine); *ʿaštê ʿāśar*, eleven (masculine)

(Num 29:20), *ʿaštê ʿeśrēh*, eleven (feminine) (Exo 26:7). The numbers are followed by the nouns being

numbered in the singular but also in the plural. If they follow the noun, the noun is in the plural form (Jos 15:36;

Ezr 8:35).

# Other *Ayin S(h)een Resh* Words

## H6237 *awsar* [KJC:7] tenth, tithe(s)(ing)

עָשַׂר

A primitive root (identical with H6238); to *accumulate*; but used only as denominative from H6235; to *tithe*, that is, take or give a tenth: -  X surely, give (take) the tenth, (have, take) tithe (-ing, -s), X truly.

 LXX related word(s) :   G1183 dekatoo

**Total KJV Occurrences:** 7

**tenth, 3** Gen 28:22, 1Sa 8:15, 1Sa 8:17

**tithes, 2** Neh 10:37-38 (2)

**tithe, 1** Deu 14:22

**tithing, 1** Deu 26:12


## H6238 *ashar* [KJC:20] rich(er)-, enrich(est)[3], made[1]

עָשַׂר

A primitive root; properly to *accumulate*; chiefly (specifically) to *grow* (causatively *make*) *rich*: - be (-come, en-, make, make self, wax) rich, make [H1 Kings H22 : H48 margin]. See H6240.

LXX related word(s): G4147 plouteo;   G4148 ploutizo

**Total KJV Occurrences:** 20

**rich, 13** Gen 14:23, 1Sa 2:7, Job 15:29, Psa 49:16, Pro 10:4, Pro 10:22, Pro 13:7, Pro 21:17, Pro 23:4, Pro 28:20, Jer 5:27, Hos 12:8, Zec 11:5

**enrich, 2** 1Sa 17:25, Eze 27:33

**enrichest, 1** Psa 65:9

**made, 1** 1Ki 22:48

**richer, 1** Dan 11:2


## H6235 *eser asarah* [KJC:176] ten

עָשָׂר   עֲשָׂרָה

From H6237; *ten* (as an *accumulation* to the extent of the digits): - ten, [fif-, seven-] teen.

**Total KJV Occurrences:** 176: ten(s) ('s) occurs 175 times; and fifteen once ???