

# Proverbs 3:9-10

New King James Version (NKJV)

**9** Honor the Lord with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

**10** So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

The following is a discussion of Proverbs 3: 9-10 taken from:

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## Proverbs 3:9

### HONOR THE LORD WITH YOUR WEALTH, WITH THE FIRSTFRUITS OF ALL

**YOUR CROPS:** This is a basic tenet of the Law of Moses. Since Israel is God's firstborn son, then it owes to Him the first fruits of all it produces: Exodus 23:19; Numbers 28:26,27; Deuteronomy 18:4; 26:1,2. (An early example of this principle was Abel: Gen 4:4.)

**HONOR:** Hebrew "kabod" = weight. To "honor" is to give proper "weight" to. To honor God means to give him the rightful place of authority by rendering to him gifts of tribute. One way to acknowledge God in one's ways (v 6) is to honor him with one's wealth (v 9). Where riches increase we are tempted to honor ourselves (De 8:17) and to set our hearts upon the world (Psalms 62:10); but the more God gives us -- if we truly believe that HE is the source of those blessings! -- then all the more we should endeavor to honor Him. Then it will come to pass, the LORD says, that "those who honor me I will honor" (1Sa 2:30).

**PRODUCE:** "Increase" (KJV) or "crops" (NET) is from the Hebrew "tevulah", which has a two-fold range of meaning: (1) "product; yield" of the earth (that is, crops; harvest) and (2) "income; revenue" in general. The imagery in vv 9,10 is agricultural; however, all Israelites -- not just farmers -- were expected to give the best portion (ie, the first fruits) of their income, however produced, to the LORD.

While tithing is not taught directly in the NT, it was taught in the Law of Moses. It has been calculated that the Israelites gave 23 1/3% -- considering the two annual tithes and a triennial tithing (Numbers 18:20-32; Deuteronomy 14:22-29). Also, they gave special vows and freewill offerings (Deuteronomy 12:6)! How did Abraham and Jacob know about tithing before the Law of Moses (Gen 14:20; 28:22)? Because it is a general rule of godly giving, which NT saints should use as a standard, if not a divine requirement, for the far greater blessings they enjoy (Luke 12:48; Hebrews 8:6).

God dares His people to test how much He can bless them (Mal 3:8-12). Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were financially blessed, because they knew how to give. God made David rich (1Ch 29:18), but David loved to give (1Ch 21:24; 22:1-16). If one gives liberally, the LORD will reward him liberally (Pro 11:24,25; Luke 6:38).

HOW one give counts more with our blessed God than HOW MUCH one gives! The Lord loves a cheerful giver (2Co 8:12; 9:7). Jesus took special note of a widow giving just two mites -- the smallest of coins (Luke 21:1-4), and much less than the rich Pharisees were giving -- because for her it represented "all her living"!

## Proverbs 3:10

**THEN YOUR BARNs WILL BE FILLED TO OVERFLOWING:** Cp Mal 3:8-12, especially v 10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." And Paul seems to have in mind Pro 3:9,10 as background for his statement in 2Co 9:10-12: "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

**BARNs:** "Asam" = storehouses, treasuries (sw Deuteronomy 28:8).

**AND YOUR VATs WILL BRIM OVER WITH NEW WINE:** This pictures the process of pressing grapes in which the upper receptacle is filled with grapes and the lower one catches the juice. The harvest of grapes will be so plentiful that the lower vat will overflow with grape juice.

"The prospect of material reward (v 10) was a promise to the godly Israelite (cf Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Mal 3:10). We should take this verse more as a proverb than a promise since the Lord has revealed that as Christians we should expect persecution for our faith rather than material prosperity (2Ti 3:12; Hebrews 12:1-11)" (Const). By "proverb" (instead of "promise"), the writer is saying that vv 9,10 are generally true, for most situations, but that they are not absolute and binding promises upon God. There will, certainly, be trials and tribulations upon the faithful, and they may sometimes suffer want or deprivation -- no matter how well or faithfully they serve the LORD. Nevertheless, the "proverb" is quite often proven true in one's life. And, beyond the more literal and material blessing (which may or may not materialize), there is the ABSOLUTE promise that -- in "Kingdom" time, shall we say -- God's special blessings will overflow to infinity upon His beloved.

The LORD our God owns the cattle on a thousand hills and everything else besides (Psalm 50:10-12). He is able to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory (Phi 4:19). If you think giving a few dollars is hard, then think upon the sacrifice our Lord Jesus made for you. Was he rewarded? Yes, indeed; he was given great honor, fullness of joy, and pleasures forevermore at God's right hand (Phi 2:5-11; Psalm 16:9-11)!