

Kerr Canning Company

Tithing Miracle

Circumstances Cannot Break Yah's (God's) Promises

Alexander H. Kerr was converted under the ministry of Dwight L. Moody at the age of fourteen and joined the Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. In 1902 Mr. Kerr read the book entitled, "*Judah's Scepter and Joseph's Birthright*," by Bishop Allen. In his book Bishop Allen referred to the vow Jacob made in Genesis 28, where we find the following words, "***Of all that Thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto Thee.***"

As the Bible story goes, twenty years later Jacob returned to his home with servants and cattle in great abundance. He thus became one of the richest men of the East as a result of keeping his covenant of tithing with the Eternal Most High.

Alexander Kerr, with some doubts, but a sincere desire to test if the promises of Scripture are true, set out to prove without a shadow of a doubt that there is a personal Alahim (*God*) and that His promises are from everlasting to everlasting, and that they are intended for people of this day. On June 1, 1902, Alexander made a special covenant with the Eternal Father to set aside a one-tenth percent of his income for His sacred use.

At that time he had a mortgage on his little home, owed many obligations, and was burdened with cares and worries, especially of a financial nature. However, he was determined to prove the Most High Eternal Fater, as did Jacob (Prov. 3:9-10; Lev. 27:30-32; Gen. 14:20, 13:2; especially Mal. 3:7-18).

Mr. Kerr often remarked that if modern-day skeptics wanted proof that there is an Alahim (*God*) and that the Bible is His Holy Word and all its promises are true, all that is necessary is to tithe for one year, and the Eternal Most High will prove to them without a doubt that He is "*the same yesterday, and today, and forever*" (Heb. 13:8).

Within three months after Mr. Kerr began to tithe, unexpected and unforeseen blessings came to him – so much so that it seemed to him that *God* had thus opened his eyes to behold His love and His faithfulness to His promises, specially made concerning tithing or giving one-tenth.

"According to your faith be it unto you" Matthew 9:29

That same year Mr. Kerr, with little capital but a strong faith in Alahim's (*God's*) tithing promises contained in Malachi 3:10-12, started his own business known as the **Kerr Glass Manufacturing Company**. It eventually became one of the largest firms selling fruit jars in the United States. The jars were manufactured for him in San Francisco.

After Alexander Kerr had put practically every cent he had in the world into this fruit jar enterprise the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906 rocked California! Jumping to conclusions,

His friends came to him and said, "*Kerr, you are a ruined man.*" He replied, "***I don't believe it.... I know God will not go back on His promises.***"

He wired to San Francisco and received the following reply: "*Your factory is in the heart of the fire, and undoubtedly is destroyed. The heat is so intense we will be unable to find out anything for some days.*"

What a time of testing this was! But his faith in the Eternal Most High never wavered. He believed Malachi 3:11: "***I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground.***" Alexander stood unmoved upon this promise. About a week after the earthquake and fire, a second telegram arrived saying: "***Everything for a mile and a half on all sides of the factory burned, but only your factory was miraculously saved.***"

Alexander immediately boarded a train for San Francisco. His factory was a two-story wooden building containing huge tanks where the glass was melted. These tanks were kept at extremely high temperatures. Oil was used for fuel, and therefore he knew his building was the most flammable in all of San Francisco.

The fire had raged on all sides of this glass factory, creeping up to the little wooden fence surrounding the building. Then the flames and fire leaped around, over, and beyond the building, burning everything in its path. However, the little wooden fence remained untouched by the scorching flames, as well as the entire building. Add to this, that not a single glass jar was broken or cracked by either the earthquake or fire.

This was nothing short of a miracle of the Eternal Father's divine power of protecting one of His own, who remained true to his faith that the promises of Scripture made to those who tithe would never be broken by any circumstances! The Eternal Father's Word cannot return to Him void (Isa. 55:8-11).

Three weeks before his death Alexander Kerr addressed the members of the First Baptist Church of Riverside, California, on the blessings and riches of tithing *increase (income)*. Every business in which he had interests tithed. His returns were so great that he created a Tithing Fund and had it incorporated. His tithing gifts went around the world, for he was deeply interested in missions at home and abroad. He gave liberally. He was greatly interested in the distribution of Testaments, Gospels, and religious literature.

Alexander Kerr was able to bless others because he trusted that the Eternal Most High would honor His promise to pour out His blessings today upon those who would thoughtfully and carefully heed the tithing instructions provided in Scripture for His faithful followers – to set aside one-tenth of their income (increase) for His divine purposes.

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