Have you ever wondered about the meaning of the word “holy”? “Holy” in the Bible means “set apart” for a sacred purpose. There are things that God establishes in the Bible as holy. Some examples are God Himself (Leviticus 11:44), angels (Revelation 14:10), His tabernacle (Deuteronomy 26:19), His law (Romans 7:12), His people (1 Peter 2:9), the Sabbath (Genesis 2:3), and the tithe (Leviticus 27:30-32).

What few Christians know is that offerings are also considered as sacred or holy. The two expiatory offerings, and the sin and guilt offerings, for example, are regarded as “most holy” (Leviticus 6:25; 7:1). The grain and food offerings are described as the “most holy part” and “sacred.” (Leviticus 2:3; 22:10).

Because offerings are so important, Solomon teaches us to worship God with them whenever we receive income. He says, “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops” (Proverbs 3:9, NIV, emphasis supplied). “Then,” God promises through Solomon, “your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine” (Proverbs 3:9-10, NIV).
In ancient Israel, through the giving of offerings, God’s children worshipped Him as Giver of all and affirmed Him as Lord. They acknowledged Him as Owner, Provider, and Sustainer, showing allegiance and willingness to obey, supporting the holy ministry and being a blessing for many.

God set the amount or value of some offerings, and for others, God left it to the worshipper’s discretion. Nonetheless, the general principle was always to give in proportion to what one has received (Deuteronomy 16:17) and to give the very best to God. (Leviticus 22:20).

According to the Bible, offerings should be returned to God as regularly as the tithe, (Proverbs 3:9; Malachi 3:8), every time He blesses us with an income or increase.

We refer to these regular gifts as “Promise,” because, as with the return of the tithe and the keeping of the Sabbath, offerings will only be consistently given to the Lord if there is a purpose in the heart (2 Corinthians 9:7), a firm decision, a “promise” made in advance, in prayer before Him.

Have you already told God how regularly you will return your “Promise” to Him? Have you already decided to always give it after He blesses you with income or increase? Have you already told Him what percentage of income you will regularly return to Him this year as “Promise” in addition to the tithe? Once you tell Him about this percentage, it becomes holy to the Lord!

As we worship our holy God with the holy tithe and the holy offerings, let us put our desires last, and God first!