

# Exodus 30:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou takest the sum of the children of Israel after their number, then shall they give every man a ransom for his soul unto the LORD, when thou numberest them; that there be no plague among them, when thou numberest them.

## Analysis

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The half-shekel atonement money (ransom for souls) demonstrates that all are equally valued before God—rich and poor pay the same. No one can pay more or less for their soul; redemption has fixed price. This prefigures how Christ's atonement has equal value for all—not more for the worthy, not less for the unworthy. The silver (redemption metal) collected supported tabernacle service, showing that redeemed people fund God's ongoing work.

## Historical Context

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The half-shekel (approximately 0.2 ounces of silver) was collected during census-taking, serving both as atonement money and practical support for the tabernacle. This became an annual temple tax in later periods.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What does equal payment (rich and poor) teach about the equality of Christ's redemption?
2. How do redeemed people support God's ongoing work in the world?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאַתָּה תִּשְׁאַל בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל  
H3588 When thou takest H853 the sum H7218 of the children H1121 of Israel H3478

בְּפֶקֶד אֲשֶׁר תִּנְתַּן אֲשֶׁר כִּי  
H6485 then shall they give H5414 every man H376 a ransom H3724 for his soul H5315

לִיהְיוֹן בְּפֶקֶד אֲשֶׁר מִלְאָה אֲשֶׁר הַבְּנָם  
unto the LORD after their number H853 H3808 H1961 H0

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֲתָם  
H5063 after their number H6485 H853

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 31:50** (References Lord): We have therefore brought an oblation for the LORD, what every man hath gotten, of jewels of gold, chains, and bracelets, rings, earrings, and tablets, to make an atonement for our souls before the LORD.

**1 Chronicles 27:24** (References Israel): Joab the son of Zeruiah began to number, but he finished not, because there fell wrath for it against Israel; neither was the number put in the account of the chronicles of king David.

**Psalms 49:7** (Redemption): None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:

**Matthew 20:28** (Redemption): Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

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