

Exodus 30:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD.

Analysis

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

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

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

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

עַל כָּל הָעָבָר עַל
H2088 This they shall give H3605 every one that passeth among
H5414 H5674 H5921

בְּפֶקַד יְמֵנֵם מִמְּחֹצֵץ יְתָה כָּל הַשְׁלָמָה כָּל
them that are numbered an half a shekel a shekel of the sanctuary
H6485 H4276 H8255 H8255 H6944

כָּרְבָּה עָשָׂר יָמִם
is twenty gerahs a shekel an half a shekel shall be the offering
H6242 H1626 H8255 H4276 H8255 H8641

לְיהוָה:
of the LORD
H3068

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 27:25 (Temple): And all thy estimations shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary: twenty gerahs shall be the shekel.

Numbers 3:47 (Temple): Thou shalt even take five shekels apiece by the poll, after the shekel of the sanctuary shalt thou take them: (the shekel is twenty gerahs:)

Ezekiel 45:12 (Parallel theme): And the shekel shall be twenty gerahs: twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels, shall be your maneh.

Exodus 38:26 (Temple): A bekah for every man, that is, half a shekel, after the shekel of the sanctuary, for every one that went to be numbered, from twenty

years old and upward, for six hundred thousand and three thousand and five hundred and fifty men.

Matthew 17:24 (Parallel theme): And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

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