

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

זֶה הוּא	וְיָתֵן	כָּל	הָעֶבֶר	עַל	
H2088	This they shall give	H3605	every one that passeth	among	
	H5414		H5674	H5921	
הַפְּקֻדִים	מֶחֶצֶת יֵת	הֶשֶׁק קֶל	הֶשֶׁק קֶל	הַקֹּדֶשׁ	
them that are numbered	an half	a shekel	a shekel	of the sanctuary	
H6485	H4276	H8255	H8255	H6944	
עֶשְׂרִים	גֵּרָה	הֶשֶׁק קֶל	מֶחֶצֶת יֵת	הֶשֶׁק קֶל	תְּרוּמָה ה
is twenty	gerahs	a shekel	an half	a shekel	shall be the offering
H6242	H1626	H8255	H4276	H8255	H8641
לַיהוָה:					
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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