

Exodus 30:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The rich shall not give more, and the poor shall not give less than half a shekel, when they give an offering unto the LORD, to make an atonement for your souls.

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

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

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|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| לֹא הָעֲשִׁיר | יִתְּנוּ | וְהָעֲנִי | לֹא יִתְּנוּ |
| The rich | shall not give more | and the poor | shall not give less |
| H6223 | H3808 H7235 | H1800 | H3808 H4591 |
| יְהוָה | תְּרוֹמַת | אֶת | לִתֵּן |
| unto the LORD | an offering | | when they give |
| H3068 | H8641 | H853 | H5414 |
| הַשֶּׁקֶל | קָל | מִמַּחֲצֵית | |
| a shekel | than half | | |
| H8255 | H4276 | | |
| נַפְשֵׁיכֶם: | עַל | לַכֹּפֶר | |
| for your souls | | to make an atonement | |
| H5315 | H5921 | H3722 | |

Additional Cross-References

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.

Job 34:19 (Parallel theme): How much less to him that accepteth not the persons of princes, nor regardeth the rich more than the poor? for they all are the work of his hands.

Ephesians 6:9 (Parallel theme): And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Exodus 30:12 (References Lord): 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.

Leviticus 17:11 (Sacrifice): For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

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