

Exodus 30:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt take the atonement money of the children of Israel, and shalt appoint it for the service of the tabernacle of the congregation; that it may be a memorial unto the children of Israel before 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

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

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

וְלָקַחְתָּ	אֶת	כֶּסֶף	הַכֹּפֶר יִם	מֵאֵת	לְבָנֵי י
And thou shalt take	H853	money	the atonement	H853	of the children
H3947		H3701	H3725		H1121
יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	וְנָתַתָּ	עַל	אֶת ו	עֲבֹדָת	אֵל הָאֵל
of Israel	and shalt appoint	H853	H5921	it for the service	of the tabernacle
H3478	H5414			H5656	H168
מִזֶּדֶד	וְהָיָה	לְבָנֵי י	יִשְׂרָאֵל ל	לְזִכְרוֹן	
of the congregation	H1961	of the children	of Israel	that it may be a memorial	
H4150		H1121	H3478	H2146	
לִפְנֵי י	יְהוָה ה	לְכַפֵּר	עַל	נַפְשֹׁתֵיכֶם:	
before	the LORD	to make an atonement	H5921	for your souls	
H6440	H3068	H3722		H5315	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 16:40 (References Lord): To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.

Exodus 12:14 (References Lord): And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever.