

# 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

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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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לְבָנִים	מִאתָה	בְּכָפֶר יְמִינָה	אֶת	כָּסֶף	מִקְרָבָת	וְלִקְרָבָת	וְאֶת	מִקְרָבָת
And thou shalt take	H853	money	the atonement	H853	of the children			
H3947		H3701	H3725	H853	H1121			
אֶל	עַבְדֵּת	עַל	אֶת	וְיִנְתַּחַת	וְיִנְתַּחַת	וְיִנְתַּחַת	וְיִנְתַּחַת	וְיִנְתַּחַת
of Israel	and shalt appoint	H853	H5921	it for the service	of the tabernacle			
H3478	H5414		H5656		H168			
לִזְכָּרוֹן	וְיִשְׁבָּא	לְבָנִים	וְיִשְׁבָּא	לְבָנִים	לִזְכָּרוֹן	וְיִשְׁבָּא	לְבָנִים	וְיִשְׁבָּא
of the congregation	H1961	of the children	of Israel	that it may be a memorial				
H4150		H1121	H3478	H2146				
לְפָנֵינוּ	לְפָנֵי הָ	לְכַפֵּר	עַל	נַפְשָׁתֵיכֶם				
before	the LORD	to make an atonement	H5921	for your souls				
H6440	H3068	H3722		H5315				

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.