

Exodus 38:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the gold that was occupied for the work in all the work of the holy place, even the gold of the offering, was twenty and nine talents, and seven hundred and thirty shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary.

Analysis

The gold total—'twenty and nine talents, and seven hundred and thirty shekels' (approximately 1,900-2,200 pounds) 'after the shekel of the sanctuary'—represents enormous wealth consecrated to God's dwelling. The specific standard ('shekel of the sanctuary') ensured accuracy and prevented fraud through variable weights. This massive gold quantity (worth millions in today's terms) demonstrates that building God's house justifies substantial investment, teaching that nothing is too valuable for His glory. The willingness to dedicate such wealth shows genuine valuation of God's presence.

Historical Context

The sanctuary shekel was standardized weight (approximately 0.4 ounces) ensuring consistent measurement. The gold came from Egypt's plunder (12:35-36), voluntary offerings (35:22), and possibly trade. This enormous quantity overlaid the ark, mercy seat, table, incense altar, and cherubim—making the Most Holy Place and Holy Place radiant with reflected lamplight.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does the enormous gold quantity dedicated to God's dwelling teach about appropriate valuation of His presence?
2. How does using standardized sanctuary weights illustrate the importance of honest dealing even in sacred work?

Interlinear Text

בְּקָדְשָׁו: מִלְּאָכְתָּב בְּכָל זֶבֶב כָּל
H3605 All the gold that was occupied for the work H3605 for the work of the holy
H2091 H6213 H4399 H4399 H6944

וְשָׁבָע כֶּבֶשׂ וְעֶשֶׂרִים שְׁבָעִים יְהִי
H1961 All the gold of the offering and nine was twenty talents and seven
H2091 H8573 H8672 H6242 H3603 H7651

בְּקָדְשָׁו: בְּשָׁקָל בְּשָׁקָל מֵא וָתָשָׁלֵשׁ יָמִים
hundred and thirty after the shekel after the shekel of the holy
H3967 H7970 H8255 H8255 H6944

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 18:16 (Temple): And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs.

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:)

