

Exodus 38:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the silver of them that were numbered of the congregation was an hundred talents, and a thousand seven hundred and threescore and fifteen shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary:

Analysis

Silver 'of them that were numbered of the congregation' (כֹּסֶף פְּקֻדֵּי הַעֲדָה, keseph pekudei ha-edah)—one hundred talents and 1,775 shekels (approximately 7,500-8,500 pounds)—came specifically from the census atonement tax (half-shekel per person, Exodus 30:13). This redemption money formed the silver sockets supporting the tabernacle, teaching that God's dwelling stands entirely on purchased redemption. Every Israelite's ransom contributed to the foundation, demonstrating that the church stands on comprehensive atonement—every believer's redemption supports the whole structure. No one's ransom was too small; everyone's contribution mattered.

Historical Context

The half-shekel atonement tax (Exodus 30:13-16) was mandatory, not voluntary—unlike gold and bronze offerings. This distinction emphasized redemption's universal necessity: all need ransom, regardless of wealth or status. The total silver (approximately 100 talents) perfectly matched the ninety-six sockets needed (forty-eight for boards, forty-eight for pillars) plus silver for capitals and connecting rods.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What does the tabernacle standing on silver from every Israelite's ransom teach about the church standing on comprehensive redemption?
2. How does the mandatory atonement tax (versus voluntary offerings) illustrate redemption's universal necessity?

Interlinear Text

רְמָאָה	פְּנִים	בְּעֵד	רְמָאָה	רְמָאָה
And the silver	of them that were numbered	of the congregation	hundred	talents
H3701	H6485	H5712	H3967	H3603
וְאֶלָּא	זָהָב	מֵאָה	וְשָׁבָע	וְשָׁבָע יָמִים
and a thousand	seven	hundred	and threescore and fifteen	
H505	H7651	H3967	H2568	H7657
בְּשֵׁם	בְּשֵׁם	בְּקָדְשָׁה		
after the shekel	after the shekel	of the sanctuary		
H8255	H8255	H6944		

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