

Ezekiel 45:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath.

Analysis

Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath—God commands honest weights and measures using three Hebrew terms: mo'znei-tsedeq (מֹזְנֵי־צֶדֶק, "balances of righteousness"), eifat-tsedeq (אִפַּת־צֶדֶק, "ephah of righteousness"), and bat-tsedeq (בַּת־צֶדֶק, "bath of righteousness"). The emphatic repetition of tsedeq (righteousness/justice) elevates commercial honesty to a matter of holiness, not mere ethics.

Israel had repeatedly violated this (Amos 8:5, Micah 6:10-11), using false weights to defraud. In the restored temple economy, worship and marketplace must align—tsedeq in the sanctuary demands tsedeq in the shop. An ephah (dry measure, ~22 liters) and bath (liquid measure, ~22 liters) represented daily transactions. God cares about grain sales and oil purchases because economic justice reflects His character. Jesus' rebuke of temple merchants (Matthew 21:12-13) and James's warning against fraud (James 5:4) continue this ethical demand.

Historical Context

Babylonian exile resulted partly from Israel's systemic injustice (Ezekiel 22:12, 29). Merchants used multiple sets of weights—heavier for buying, lighter for selling—accumulating wealth through incremental theft. Archaeological discoveries have found ancient weights varying significantly, confirming widespread commercial fraud in the ancient Near East.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's concern for accurate business measurements reveal His character?
2. In what ways might Christians today use 'false balances' in their professional or personal dealings?

Interlinear Text

מֵאֲזָנִי	צֶדֶק	אֵפָה	צֶדֶק	וּבַת	צֶדֶק
balances	Ye shall have just	ephah	Ye shall have just	bath	Ye shall have just
H3976	H6664	H374	H6664	H1324	H6664

לְכֶם:	יְהוָה
H0	H1961

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 16:11 (Righteousness): A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work.

Proverbs 11:1 (Righteousness): A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.