

Ezekiel 45:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The ephah and the bath shall be of one measure, that the bath may contain the tenth part of an homer, and the ephah the tenth part of an homer: the measure thereof shall be after the homer.

Analysis

The ephah (grain measure) and bath (liquid measure) **shall be of one measure** (מִתְקָנֶת אֶחָת, matkonet echat)—both one-tenth of a homer (220~ גָּמָן liters). This standardization prevented merchants from exploiting different measurement systems for dry versus liquid goods. The Hebrew matkonet means "fixed proportion" or "standard," establishing uniformity that enabled fair commerce.

The measure thereof shall be after the homer—the homer (literally "donkey-load") served as the base unit, with ephah and bath as consistent fractions. This mathematical precision in a worship context demonstrates that God orders both sacred and secular spheres by the same righteous standards. Proverbs 11:1 declares, "A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight." The restored community would base its entire economy on divine-standard measurements, making every transaction an act of covenantal faithfulness.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern commerce suffered from regional variation in weights and measures, enabling fraud across trade networks. By anchoring Israel's system to the homer with fixed ratios, Ezekiel's vision created economic transparency. This

reform parallels modern standardization (metric system, currency exchanges) but roots it explicitly in divine righteousness rather than mere convenience.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does God prescribe such detailed measurement standards in a prophetic vision?
2. How does standardization in commerce reflect God's character of truth and consistency?

Interlinear Text

לְשֵׁת אֶת יְהִי הַ
The ephah and the bath measure shall be of one may contain
H374 H1324 H8506 H259 H1961 H5375

בְּאֵת הַ
the tenth part of an homer and the bath the tenth part of an homer The ephah
H4643 H2563 H1324 H6224 H2563 H374

מִתְכְּתָתוֹ: יְהִי הַ
of an homer the measure
H413 H2563 H1961 H4971

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 5:10 (Parallel theme): Yea, ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath, and the seed of an homer shall yield an ephah.

