

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** (מִתְכַּנֶּת אֶחָד, matkonet echat)—both one-tenth of a homer (220~ חֹמֶר, homers). 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

לֵשׁ אֶת	יְהוָה ה	אֶחָד	תֵּן כֵּן	הַבַּת	הָאֵיפָה ה
may contain	H1961	shall be of one	H259	and the bath	H1324
H5375			H8506		H374
הָאֵיפָה ה	הַחֹמֶר	וְעֶשְׂרִית	הַבַּת	הַחֹמֶר	מֵעֶשֶׂר
The ephah	of an homer	the tenth part	and the bath	of an homer	the tenth part
H374	H2563	H6224	H1324	H2563	H4643
מִתְכַּנְתּוֹ:	יְהוָה ה	הַחֹמֶר	אֶל		
the measure	H1961	of an homer	H413		
H4971		H2563			

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.

