

Ezekiel 45:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the shekel shall be twenty gerahs: twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels, shall be your maneh.

Analysis

The shekel shall be twenty gerahs: twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels, shall be your maneh—This defines the shekel (שֶׁקֶל, basic weight/currency unit) as 20 gerahs (גֶּרָה, smallest unit, ~0.57 grams), and the maneh (מָנֶה, "mina") as 60 shekels (20 + 25 + 15 = 60). Exodus 30:13 and Leviticus 27:25 already established the 20-gerah shekel, but Israel had corrupted standards over time.

The unusual formula "twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels" may combat inflated minas circulating in Babylon (where a mina = 50 shekels) by emphatically restoring the proper 60-shekel mina. This isn't arbitrary arithmetic but covenant restoration—returning to Mosaic law's economic foundation. Every monetary transaction in the new temple economy must align with God's original standard, not Babylonian imperial systems. Jesus's parable of the minas (Luke 19:11-27) assumes hearers understood this measure's value, illustrating stewardship accountability.

Historical Context

During exile, Jewish merchants used Babylonian weights and currency, which differed from Torah standards. Ezekiel's restatement reasserts covenantal identity through economic reform. Just as Daniel refused the king's food to maintain ritual purity (Daniel 1:8), returning exiles must reject Babylonian commercial standards to maintain economic purity.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How can adopting worldly standards in 'neutral' areas like business compromise spiritual integrity?
2. What does this detailed redefinition teach about God's concern for every aspect of community life?

Interlinear Text

וְשֵׁקֶל	וְעֶשְׂרִים	גֶּרָה	וְעֶשְׂרִים	וְשֵׁקֶל	וְחִמְשָׁה
And the shekel	and twenty	gerahs	and twenty	And the shekel	fifteen
H8255	H6242	H1626	H6242	H8255	H2568
וְעֶשְׂרִים	וְשֵׁקֶל	עֶשְׂרִים	וְחִמְשָׁה	וְשֵׁקֶל	
and twenty	And the shekel	H6235	fifteen	And the shekel	
H6242	H8255		H2568	H8255	
הַמָּנָה	לָכֶם: יְהוָה	ה			
shall be your maneh	H1961	H0			
H4488					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 30:13 (Parallel theme): This they shall give, every one that passeth among them that are numbered, half a shekel after the shekel of the sanctuary: (a shekel is twenty gerahs:) an half shekel shall be the offering of the LORD.

Leviticus 27:25 (Parallel theme): And all thy estimations shall be according to the shekel of the sanctuary: twenty gerahs shall be the shekel.

Numbers 3:47 (Parallel theme): 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:)

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