

Ezekiel 45:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the oblation that ye shall offer; the sixth part of an ephah of an homer of wheat, and ye shall give the sixth part of an ephah of an homer of barley:

Analysis

This is the oblation that ye shall offer—The terumah (תְּרוּמָה, "contribution" or "heave offering") consists of grain: **the sixth part of an ephah of an homer of wheat... and... barley**. This specifies a tax rate of 1/60th (one-sixth of an ephah per homer, since an ephah is one-tenth of a homer). Unlike oppressive royal taxation (1 Samuel 8:15 warns of 10% seizure), this modest tribute supports temple worship voluntarily given by covenant people.

The Hebrew construction emphasizes participation: "ye shall offer" (tarimu) is not royal confiscation but worshipful contribution. Wheat and barley—staple grains representing basic sustenance—being offered acknowledges God's provision of daily bread. This prefigures Jesus's teaching to pray "give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11) and His self-identification as "the bread of life" (John 6:35). The fraction (1/60th) is manageable, allowing joyful giving rather than grudging compliance.

Historical Context

Israel's monarchy had imposed crushing taxation to fund royal luxury and military campaigns (1 Kings 12:4). Ezekiel's vision reforms taxation, making it temple-focused rather than palace-focused, and proportionally light (1.67% compared to the tithe's 10%). This redistribution prioritizes worship over royal aggrandizement.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the light burden of this offering contrast with oppressive taxation, and what does that reveal about God's governance?
2. In what ways is offering our 'daily bread' to God an act of faith in His provision?

Interlinear Text

זֶה	הַתְּרוּמָה	אֲשֶׁר	תִּתְּנוּ	שֵׁשֶׁת	הָאֵיפָה
H2063	This is the oblation	H834	that ye shall offer	the sixth part	of an ephah
	H8641		H7311	H8345	H374
מֵחֹמֶר	קִמְחַת	וְתִתְּנוּ	שֵׁשֶׁת	הָאֵיפָה	מֵחֹמֶר
of an homer	of wheat	and ye shall give the sixth part	of an ephah	of an ephah	of an homer
H2563	H2406	H8341	H374	H2563	
הַשְּׂעִירִים:					
of barley					
H8184					