

Ezekiel 45:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Concerning the ordinance of oil, the bath of oil, ye shall offer the tenth part of a bath out of the cor, which is an homer of ten baths; for ten baths are an homer:

Analysis

Concerning the ordinance of oil, the bath of oil, ye shall offer the tenth part of a bath out of the cor—The oil contribution rate is 1/100th (since a cor (כֹר) = 10 baths, the tenth of a bath per cor = 1%). The chok (חֹק, "ordinance" or "statute") for oil parallels the grain offering but at a lighter rate. Oil (שֶׁמֶן, shemen)—from olives, Israel's agricultural wealth—fueled the menorah (Exodus 27:20), anointed priests (Exodus 29:7), and accompanied grain offerings (Leviticus 2:1).

The meticulous measurement—**which is an homer of ten baths; for ten baths are an homer**—ensures no confusion between different measurement systems. Oil symbolizes the Holy Spirit's anointing (1 Samuel 16:13, Acts 10:38) and the Spirit's sanctifying work (Zechariah 4:1-6). That Israel contributes oil for temple service acknowledges that spiritual vitality comes from God yet requires human participation in maintaining worship. The light oil tax (1%) combined with light grain tax (1.67%) totals approximately 2.67%—far below the tithe, suggesting grace-motivated giving rather than legal obligation.

Historical Context

Olive oil production was labor-intensive, requiring cultivation, harvesting, pressing, and refining. As a valuable commodity traded internationally, oil represented concentrated wealth. By requiring only 1% for temple use, Ezekiel's

vision ensures adequate provision without burdening the people, contrasting with kings who hoarded resources (1 Kings 10:27-29).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit connect to our responsibility to 'fuel' corporate worship?
2. What does the light taxation rate reveal about God's generosity and trust in His people's willing participation?

Interlinear Text

וְחִק	הַשֶּׁמֶן מִן	הַבַּתִּים	הַשֶּׁמֶן מִן		
Concerning the ordinance	of oil	baths	of oil		
H2706	H8081	H1324	H8081		
וְעָשָׂה	הַבַּתִּים	מִן	הַכֹּר	עָשָׂה	הַבַּתִּים
ye shall offer the tenth part	baths	H4480	out of the cor	for ten	baths
H4643	H1324		H3734	H6235	H1324
חֲמֵר:	כִּי	עָשָׂה	הַבַּתִּים	חֲמֵר:	
are an homer	H3588	for ten	baths	are an homer	
H2563		H6235	H1324	H2563	