

# Ezra 8:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels, even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered:

## Analysis

**And weighed unto them the silver, and the gold, and the vessels**—אָשְׁקֵלָהּ (va'eshqelah, and I weighed) indicates precise measurement. The שָׁקָל (shaqal, to weigh) was standard commercial practice ensuring accountability—exact weights recorded at transfer prevented later disputes about missing items. The כֶּסֶף וְהַזָּהָב וְהַכֵּלִים (kessef v'hazahav v'hakelim, the silver and the gold and the vessels) comprised both raw precious metals and crafted liturgical implements.

**Even the offering of the house of our God, which the king, and his counsellors, and his lords, and all Israel there present, had offered**—תְּרוּמָת (terumat, the offering/contribution) designates these treasures as קֹדֶשׁ (holy) from the moment of dedication. The donors span the spectrum: הַמֶּלֶךְ (hamelekh, the king—Artaxerxes), יוֹאֲצָב (yo'atzav, his counselors), שָׂרָב (sarav, his princes), and כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל (kol-Yisrael, all Israel present—the Babylonian Jewish community). This unprecedented collaboration between pagan monarchy and diaspora community funded temple worship, demonstrating God's sovereign orchestration of history.

## Historical Context

Persian kings followed Cyrus's policy of supporting subject peoples' religions to maintain loyalty (Cyrus Cylinder documents this strategy). Artaxerxes'

contributions (7:15-16) plus voluntary Jewish donations created enormous wealth transfer from Babylon to Jerusalem. The careful weighing and documentation parallels ancient Near Eastern commercial contracts (evidenced in thousands of cuneiform tablets) where witnesses verified transactions. Ezra's meticulous record-keeping (noting exact weights in vv. 26-27) provided legal protection and theological testimony to God's provision.

## Related Passages

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

---

1. What does the collaboration between pagan king and Jewish community teach about God's sovereignty over secular powers?
2. How does the careful weighing and documentation model accountability in handling sacred resources?
3. In what ways should modern ministry leaders balance faith-risk (refusing military escort) with careful stewardship (precise accounting)?

## Interlinear Text

---

וַאֲשֶׁקוּלָהּ	אֶת לָהּ ׀	הַכֶּסֶף	וְאֶת	הַזָּהָב	וְאֶת
And weighed	H1992	H853	unto them the silver	H853	and the gold
H8254			H3701		H2091
וְהַכֵּלִים	תְּרוֹמַת	בֵּית	אֱלֹהֵינוּ	הָהָר יָמוֹ	
and the vessels	even the offering	of the house	of our God	had offered	
H3627	H8641	H1004	H430	H7311	
הֵם לְ	וְיֹעֲצָיו	וְשָׂרָיו	וְכָל	יִשְׂרָאֵל	הַנִּמְצָאִים:
which the king	and his counsellors	and his lords	H3605	and all Israel	there present
H4428	H3289	H8269		H3478	H4672

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Ezra 8:33** (References God): Now on the fourth day was the silver and the gold and the vessels weighed in the house of our God by the hand of Meremoth the son of Uriah the priest; and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas; and with them was Jozabad the son of Jeshua, and Noadiah the son of Binnui, Levites;

**Ezra 1:8** (Kingdom): Even those did Cyrus king of Persia bring forth by the hand of Mithredath the treasurer, and numbered them unto Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah.

---

From KJV Study • [kjevstudy.org](http://kjevstudy.org)