

# Judges 8:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the weight of the golden earrings that he requested was a thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold; beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment that was on the kings of Midian, and beside the chains that were about their camels' necks.

## Analysis

**A thousand and seven hundred shekels of gold**—approximately 43 pounds (19.5 kg) of gold, worth millions in modern currency. The Hebrew emphasizes the excessive amount: **beside ornaments, and collars, and purple raiment...and beside the chains**. The repeated 'beside' (בְּדַ, levad) underscores the extravagance beyond even the earrings themselves.

**Purple raiment** (אֲרָגָמָן, argaman) signified royalty and extreme wealth, as the dye came from rare murex shellfish. The **chains about their camels' necks** (שְׁבָרוֹנִים, shaharonim, 'crescents' or 'ornaments') were decorative moon-shaped pendants, possibly with pagan religious significance. The accumulation of such wealth parallels Solomon's later excess (1 Kings 10:14-29) and violates the spirit of Deuteronomy 17:17's warning that kings must not 'multiply gold and silver.' Gideon collects the very trappings of kingship he verbally refused.

## Historical Context

A shekel weighed approximately 11.4 grams. Seventeen hundred shekels represented enormous wealth—more than most Israelites would see in multiple

lifetimes. The Midianite kings' regalia demonstrated their status and wealth derived from controlling trade routes through the Transjordan region.

## Related Passages

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

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does accumulation of wealth and status contradict verbal declarations of humility?
2. In what ways do you collect 'ornaments' of worldly success while claiming to serve God alone?
3. What warnings does Scripture give about multiplying possessions, and how do you heed them?

## Interlinear Text

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שָׁאַל אֲשֶׁר יְבָב נִזְמָן מִשְׁקָל לִיהְיָה  
H1961 And the weight H4948 H5141 H2091 H834 H7592  
earrings of the golden

מִן לְבָד יְבָב מֵאַת שְׁבָע  
was a thousand and seven hundred of the golden  
H505 H7651 H3967 H2091 H905 H4480

שָׁעַל בָּאֲרֶגֶם וְבָגֶד וּבְגִטִּיף וְתַּחֲבָרָן יִם  
beside ornaments and collars raiment and purple H5921  
H7720 H5188 H899 H713

אֲשֶׁר בְּעֲתָק וְתַּחֲבָרָן מִלְכִים  
that was on the kings of Midian and beside the chains  
H4428 H4080 H905 H4480 H6060 H834

גְּמַלְיָחִים בְּצָאָר  
necks that were about their camels  
H6677 H1581

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