

# 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' (לְבַד, levad) underscores the extravagance beyond even the earrings themselves.

**Purple raiment** (אַרְגָּמָן, argaman) signified royalty and extreme wealth, as the dye came from rare murex shellfish. The **chains about their camels' necks** (שְׁהָרִימִים, 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**

---

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

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

## **Study Questions**

---

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

וַיְהִי י'	מִשְׁקָל ל'	נִזְמֵי י'	זָהָב	אֲשֶׁר	שָׂא ל'
H1961	<b>And the weight</b>	<b>earrings</b>	<b>of the golden</b>	H834	<b>that he requested</b>
	H4948	H5141	H2091		H7592
אֶלֶף	וּשְׁבַע	מֵאָה	זָהָב	לְבַד	מִן
<b>was a thousand</b>	<b>and seven</b>	<b>hundred</b>	<b>of the golden</b>	H905	H4480
H505	H7651	H3967	H2091		
הַשְּׁהָרָגִים	וְהַנְּטִיפֹת	וּבְגָדֵי י'	תְּאֵרֶגֶם	וְשָׁעֵל	
<b>beside ornaments</b>	<b>and collars</b>	<b>raiment</b>	<b>and purple</b>	H5921	
H7720	H5188	H899	H713		
מַלְכֵי י'	מִדְיָן	וּלְבַד	מִן	הַ שָּׁעֵל וְ	אֲשֶׁר
<b>that was on the kings</b>	<b>of Midian</b>	H905	H4480	<b>and beside the chains</b>	H834
H4428	H4080			H6060	
בְּצִמְאֹרֵי י'	גַּמְלֵיהֶם:				
<b>necks</b>	<b>that were about their camels</b>				
H6677	H1581				