

# Numbers 31:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold of them, even all wrought jewels.

## Analysis

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**And Moses and Eleazar the priest took the gold of them, even all wrought jewels**—Moses and Eleazar received gold offerings (זָהָב zahav) described as **wrought jewels** (כְּלֵי מְעָשָׂה keli ma'aseh, 'vessels of craftsmanship'), indicating elaborate metalwork rather than raw gold. This voluntary offering (v.50) from military officers expressed gratitude that no soldiers died in the Midianite campaign (v.49)—a miraculous preservation requiring thankful acknowledgment.

The officers' grateful response models proper stewardship: recognizing God's deliverance and responding with generous offerings. Their attitude contrasts with Achan's secret hoarding of war spoils (Joshua 7), bringing judgment on Israel. The New Testament teaches: 'Freely you have received, freely give' (Matthew 10:8)—blessings incur stewardship responsibility, not ownership entitlement.

## Historical Context

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The Midianite war (Numbers 31) avenged Midian's seduction scheme at Baal-peor (Numbers 25:16-18; 31:16). The miraculous zero-casualty victory (31:49) among 12,000 Israelite warriors in ancient combat was unprecedented, prompting officers' voluntary 16,750-shekel gold offering (31:52)—approximately 420 pounds of gold, a massive treasury contribution.

## Related Passages

## **Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ**

## **Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. How does the officers' grateful gold offering model proper response to divine deliverance and protection?
2. What does the zero-casualty miracle teach about God's ability to protect His people in impossible circumstances?
3. How can you cultivate gratitude that responds to blessings with generous stewardship rather than entitled hoarding?

## Interlinear Text

ל	מְאַת	מְאַת	בְּ	בְּ	אֶת	בְּ	אֶלְעָזָר	מֵשֶׁה	וְ	לְקֹדֶם
took	And Moses	and Eleazar	the priest	H853	the gold	H853				H3605

כָּל־ מַעַשָּׂה: jewels of them even all wrought

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