

Numbers 31:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

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** (כֵּלֵי מַעֲשֶׂה 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

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

וָקַח	מֹשֶׁה	וְאֶלְעָזָר	הַכֹּהֵן	אֶת	הַזָּהָב	מֵאֲתָם	כֹּל
took	And Moses	and Eleazar	the priest	H853	the gold	H853	H3605
H3947	H4872	H499	H3548		H2091		
כָּל־	מַעֲשֵׂה:						
jewels	of them even all wrought						
H3627	H4639						

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