

Numbers 7:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He offered for his offering one silver charger, the weight whereof was an hundred and thirty shekels, one silver bowl of seventy shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary; both of them full of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering:

Analysis

The repetition of the identical offering—silver charger, silver bowl, golden spoon—emphasizes the standardized nature of acceptable worship. God prescribed the amount and type, ensuring equity and preventing either ostentation or stinginess. This standardization teaches that while our hearts may differ, God establishes clear expectations for worship. The Reformed regulative principle of worship is relevant—God prescribes how He is to be worshiped, and we follow His prescription, not human innovation or preference.

Historical Context

The specific weights—130 shekels for the charger, 70 for the bowl, 10 for the spoon—were significant amounts of precious metal. These were not arbitrary numbers but represented substantial, costly offerings. The standardization meant wealthy and poor tribes alike participated equally in dedicating the tabernacle, preventing economic disparity from creating worship disparity.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does standardized worship protect against both pride in wealth and shame in poverty?
2. What does God's prescription of offering amounts teach about human inability to determine proper worship independently?
3. In what ways should biblical patterns inform worship today while avoiding dead ritualism?

Interlinear Text

שָׁלַשׁ	יְמִין	אֶחָד	וְ	קָרְבָּן	כְּעָרְבָּת	כְּסֶף	כְּ	וְ	שְׁלֹשׁ	יְמִין	אֶחָד	וְ	
He offered	H853	for his offering		charger		silver		one		and thirty			
	H7126		H7133		H7086		H3701		H259		H7970		
וְמִמֶּה		מִשְׁקָלָה		מִזְבֵּחַ	כְּ	מִזְבֵּחַ	כְּ	שְׁבַע	יְמִין	אֶחָד			
whereof was an hundred		the weight		bowl		one		silver		of seventy			
	H3967		H4948		H4219		H259		H3701		H7657		
בְּשֶׁל	כָּל	בְּשֶׁל	דְּשֵׁ	בְּקָרְבָּן	מִן	שְׁנִים	מִן	מִלְאָה	יְמִין	שְׁנִים	מִן	מִלְאָה	
after the shekel		after the shekel		of the sanctuary		both		of them		full			
	H8255		H8255		H6944		H8147		H4392				
בְּשֶׁל	מִן	בְּלֹלֶל	ה	סְלִתָּה		לְמִנְחָה:							
of fine flour		mingled		with oil		for a meat offering							
	H5560		H1101		H8081		H4503						