

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

שֶׁלֹש יָמִים אֶחָד כֶּסֶף קַעֲרַת קָרְבַּנִּי אֶת הַקֶּרֶב
He offered^{H7126} ^{H853} for his offering^{H7133} charger^{H7086} silver^{H3701} one^{H259} and thirty^{H7970}

שִׁבְעִים יָמִים כֶּסֶף אֶחָד מִזְבֵּחַ קֶמֶשֶׁקֶלָה וּמֵאָה
whereof was an hundred^{H3967} the weight^{H4948} bowl^{H4219} one^{H259} silver^{H3701} of seventy^{H7657}

מְלֵא יָמִים שְׁנֵיהֶם הַקֶּדֶשׁ בֶּשֶׁל קֶל בֶּשֶׁל קֶל
after the shekel^{H8255} after the shekel^{H8255} of the sanctuary^{H6944} both^{H8147} of them full^{H4392}

לְמִנְחָה: בֶּשֶׁל מֶן בָּלוּלָה סֵל
of fine flour^{H5560} mingled^{H1101} with oil^{H8081} for a meat offering^{H4503}