

Numbers 7:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His offering was 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

One silver charger, the weight whereof was an hundred and thirty shekels, one silver bowl of seventy shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary—The silver vessels (כָּלְעָה, qe'arah, 'charger/dish'; מִזְרָק, mizraq, 'bowl' for sprinkling) held the grain offering (minchah). The total 200 shekels of silver per tribe amounted to 2,400 shekels across all twelve tribes—substantial wealth dedicated to God.

The phrase **after the shekel of the sanctuary** (בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ, besheqel haqodesh) established a standard weight preventing fraud. God's sanctuary required honest measures (Leviticus 19:36). Both vessels contained **fine flour mingled with oil** (סְלָת בְּלָלָה בְּשָׂמִן, solet belulah bashemen)—the grain offering symbolizing daily provision consecrated to God.

Historical Context

The sanctuary shekel weighed approximately 11.5 grams (0.4 ounces), making the charger about 1.5 kg and bowl 0.8 kg. Silver was precious in the ancient Near East, typically obtained through trade or tribute. The uniformity of offerings across all tribes prevented wealth disparity from affecting worship—rich and poor gave the same prescribed amounts.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does the 'shekel of the sanctuary' as a standard measure teach about integrity and honesty in worship and daily life?
2. How might the grain offering (fine flour and oil) symbolize the consecration of ordinary daily provision and labor to God?
3. In what ways does the identical offering from each tribe challenge modern prosperity theology that measures spiritual blessing by material abundance?

Interlinear Text

וּמִאָה שָׁלַשׁ יָם אֶחָד קָרְבָּן וְכָבְרַת סֶרֶף כָּבֵד הַקְרָבָה
and a hundred three and one shekels of silver was the offering of the sanctuary
H3967 H7970 H259 H3701 H7086 H7133

בְּשַׂלְלָה מִשְׁקָלָה קְרָבָן מִזְבֵּחַ אֶחָד שְׁבַע יָם כָּבֵד
after the shekel weight of the offering was the weight of the bowl of silver of seventy
H8255 H4948 H4219 H259 H3701 H7657 H8255

בְּלֹיל הַסְלָת מְלָא יָם שְׁנִינָה סִמְדָּר בְּשַׂלְלָה
mingled of fine flour both of them full of oil of the sanctuary
H1101 H5560 H4392 H8147 H6944 H8255

לִמְנַקְּה בְּשַׂלְלָה
for a meat offering with oil
H4503 H8081

