

# 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 (קַעֲרָה, 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** (סֶלֶת בְּלוּלָה בַשֶּׁמֶן, 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

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**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

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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

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קָרְבַּן וְ	קַעֲכֵת	כֶּסֶף	אֶחָד	שְׁלֹשׁ יָם	וּמֵאָה
<b>His offering</b>	<b>charger</b>	<b>silver</b>	<b>shekels one</b>	<b>and thirty</b>	<b>whereof was an hundred</b>
H7133	H7086	H3701	H259	H7970	H3967
מִשְׁקָלָהּ	מִזְבֵּחַ קֶ	אֶחָד	כֶּסֶף	שִׁבְעֵי יָם	בֶּשֶׁל קֶל
<b>the weight</b>	<b>bowl</b>	<b>shekels one</b>	<b>silver</b>	<b>of seventy</b>	<b>after the shekel</b>
H4948	H4219	H259	H3701	H7657	H8255
בֶּשֶׁל קֶל	הַקֵּן דָּשׁ	שְׁנֵיָּהּ מֵ	מָלֵא יָם	סֵ לֵת	בְּלוּלָהּ
<b>after the shekel</b>	<b>of the sanctuary</b>	<b>both</b>	<b>of them full</b>	<b>of fine flour</b>	<b>mingled</b>
H8255	H6944	H8147	H4392	H5560	H1101
בֶּשֶׁל מִן	לְמִנְחָה:				
<b>with oil</b>	<b>for a meat offering</b>				
H8081	H4503				

