

Numbers 7:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His offering was one silver charger of the weight of 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

His offering was one silver charger of the weight of an hundred and thirty shekels, one silver bowl of seventy shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary—Gamaliel's offering mirrors Elishama's (7:49) and every other tribe's—identical weights, vessels, and contents. The repetition isn't tedious but theologically intentional: God values each tribe equally. The **shekel of the sanctuary** maintains standards of honesty, preventing the wealthy from gaining advantage through manipulated weights (Proverbs 11:1).

Both of them full of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering—The grain offering (minchah) accompanied burnt and peace offerings, never appearing alone. The fine flour (solet) required laborious grinding and sifting, representing consecrated human labor. Oil (shemen) symbolized the Holy Spirit's anointing (1 Samuel 16:13). Together they picture Spirit-empowered human effort offered to God.

Historical Context

The sanctuary shekel originated at Sinai (Exodus 30:13) as the standard for the half-shekel temple tax. By maintaining this standard throughout Israel's history, God prevented economic inflation from corrupting worship. The 'fine flour mingled

with oil' recipe appears throughout Leviticus (2:1-16), creating consistency in grain offerings for four decades of wilderness worship.

Related Passages

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the identical offering from all tribes challenge worldly systems that privilege wealth, status, or influence in religious contexts?
2. What does the laborious preparation of 'fine flour' (repeated grinding and sifting) teach about the value of careful, consecrated work in worship?
3. In what ways does oil symbolizing the Spirit's anointing challenge attempts at human achievement apart from divine empowerment?

Interlinear Text

בְּשַׁלְּמָה שְׁבַע יָמִים מִשְׁקָלָה אֶחָד מִזְבֵּחַ קָרְבָּן

of the weight bowl shekels one silver of seventy after the shekel

H4948 H4219 H259 H3701 H7657 H8255

בְּלֹל הַסְּלָת מְלָא יָם שְׁנִיָּה סִן בְּקַדְשָׁה בְּשַׁקְלָה

after the shekel of the sanctuary both of them full of fine flour mingled

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בְּשֶׂמֶן לְמַנְחָה: with oil for a meat offering

