

# Numbers 7:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One golden spoon of ten shekels, full of incense:

## Analysis

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**One golden spoon of ten shekels, full of incense**—Gamaliel's golden ladle matches the previous pattern precisely. The repetition of **ten shekels** across all twelve tribes meant 120 shekels of gold total (about 1.38 kg), substantial wealth dedicated to prayer and worship. Gold's incorruptibility symbolized the eternal nature of prayer—petitions offered in faith never decay or lose value before God.

The incense (qetoret) ascending from each tribe's golden spoon created a cumulative cloud of prayer rising to God throughout the twelve-day dedication. This corporate intercession united Israel in worship. Psalm 141:2 later connects incense to evening prayer: 'Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense.' The identical spoons emphasize prayer's equal access—no tribe needed more gold for God to hear.

## Historical Context

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The golden incense altar (Exodus 30:1-10) stood before the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place, symbolizing prayer's intimate access to God's presence. The high priest burned incense twice daily (morning and evening). These golden spoons at the dedication supplemented regular worship, expressing extraordinary devotion during the tabernacle's consecration.

## 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

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does gold's incorruptibility as a symbol of eternal prayer encourage persistence in intercession even when immediate results aren't visible?
2. What does the cumulative incense cloud from all twelve tribes teach about the power of corporate, united prayer?
3. In what ways does the connection between incense and evening prayer (Psalm 141:2) inform your daily rhythm of devotion?

## Interlinear Text

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|-------|------|--------|--------|--------------|------------|
| פ     | א    | ה      | ב      | ה            | קטרת:      |
| spoon | One  | of ten | golden | shekels full | of incense |
| H3709 | H259 | H6235  | H2091  | H4392        | H7004      |

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