

Numbers 7:62

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One golden spoon of ten shekels, full of incense:

Analysis

One golden spoon of ten shekels, full of incense—The Hebrew *kaf* (כַּף) literally means 'palm' or 'hollow hand,' describing a ladle-shaped vessel. Gold (זָהָב, *zahav*) signifies deity and divine glory, while ten shekels (about 4 ounces) provided substance without ostentation. The *qetoreth* (קֶטֶרֶת, incense) burned continually on the golden altar (Exodus 30:7-8), creating fragrant smoke that ascended to God—a perpetual symbol of prayer.

Revelation 5:8 explicitly identifies incense as 'the prayers of saints.' The golden spoon filled with incense therefore represents prayer offered from divinely-shaped vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7). The precise ten-shekel measure suggests completeness and accountability—our prayers must be neither deficient nor excessive, but Spirit-measured. Christ Himself is our true incense (Hebrews 7:25), making intercessory prayer perpetually acceptable to the Father.

Historical Context

The golden altar of incense stood before the veil separating the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place (Exodus 30:6). The high priest burned incense twice daily—morning and evening—maintaining constant communion between God and Israel. The incense recipe was sacred and exclusive (Exodus 30:34-38); unauthorized incense or offering resulted in death (Leviticus 10:1-2, Numbers 16:35).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the connection between incense and prayer (Revelation 5:8) teach about the 'aroma' of our petitions to God?
2. How does the gold construction of the incense vessel point to prayer's divine origin and enabling (Romans 8:26-27)?
3. Why did unauthorized incense bring death (Leviticus 10:1-2), and how does Christ's intercession secure our access to God (Hebrews 7:25)?

Interlinear Text

פ	א	ח	ת	ב	ז	ה	מ	ל	א	ה	ק	ט	ר	ת
spoon	One	of ten	golden	shekels full	of incense									
H3709	H259	H6235	H2091	H4392	H7004									

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