

# Numbers 7:85

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Each charger of silver weighing an hundred and thirty shekels, each bowl seventy: all the silver vessels weighed two thousand and four hundred shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary:

## Analysis

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**Each charger of silver weighing an hundred and thirty shekels, each bowl seventy: all the silver vessels weighed two thousand and four hundred shekels** (כל-כֹּסֶף הַכְּלִים אֶלְפִּים וְאֶרְבַּע-מֵאוֹת בְּשֶׂקֶל פְּקָדֵשׁ)—The summary tallies 2,400 shekels of silver, calculated from twelve sets of 200 shekels each (130 + 70). **After the shekel of the sanctuary** (בְּשֶׂקֶל פְּקָדֵשׁ) emphasizes divine standards, not human measures.

Silver represents redemption (Exodus 30:12-16); 2,400 shekels symbolizes the fullness of Israel's ransom. The number 24 ( $2,400 \div 100$ ) appears in Scripture as priestly completeness—David organized 24 priestly divisions (1 Chronicles 24), and Revelation portrays 24 elders worshiping before the throne (Revelation 4:4). The sanctuary shekel's precision prevents fraud and enforces God's justice: worship requires costly, honest devotion, not cheap counterfeits.

## Historical Context

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The sanctuary shekel was a fixed divine standard, heavier than commercial shekels, preventing debasement and fraud (Exodus 30:13). The silver half-shekel served as atonement money in the census (Exodus 30:12-16), linking redemption

to corporate identity. The 2,400 total reflects twelve tribes each contributing equally.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the divine standard of the 'sanctuary shekel' challenge compromised, culturally accommodated worship?
2. What does the connection between silver (redemption) and the census (numbering the people) teach about the relationship between atonement and community?
3. Why might God require such precise weights and meticulous record-keeping in worship, and what does this reveal about His character?

## Interlinear Text

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וְשְׁבֻעַ יָמִים כִּסְף בְּאַפָּד הַקְרָעָה מֵאַת שְׁלֹשׁ יָמִים  
and thirty hundred charger Each all the silver seventy  
H7970 H3967 H7086 H259 H3701 H7657

אֶלֶף יָמִים בְּכָל כִּסְף בְּאַפָּד הַמִּזְבֵּחַ  
bowl Each H3605 all the silver vessels weighed two thousand  
H4219 H259 H3701 H3627 H505

בְּקָרְבָּן מֵאַת וְאֶרְבַּע  
and four hundred shekels after the shekel of the sanctuary  
H702 H3967 H8255 H6944

