

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

Each charger of silver weighing an hundred and thirty shekels, each bowl seventy: all the silver vessels weighed two thousand and four hundred shekels (שֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ וְאַרְבַּע־מֵאוֹת בְּשֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ, kol-kesef hakelim alpayim ve'arba-me'ot beshegel haqodesh)—The summary tallies 2,400 shekels of silver, calculated from twelve sets of 200 shekels each (130 + 70). **After the shekel of the sanctuary** (שֶׁקֶל הַקֹּדֶשׁ) 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 ÷ 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

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

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

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

וְשִׁבְעִים	כָּסֶף	הָאֶחָד	דִּ	הַקֶּזֶבֶת	הָ	מֵא	וְ	שְׁלֹשִׁים
seventy	all the silver	Each		charger		hundred		and thirty
H7657	H3701	H259		H7086		H3967		H7970
אֶלֶף	יָמָּה	הַכֵּל	יָמָּה	כָּסֶף	כָּל	הָאֶחָד	דִּ	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ
weighed two thousand	vessels	all the silver	Each			bowl		
H505	H3627	H3701	H259		H3605	H4219		
הַקֹּדֶשׁ:	בֶּשֶׁת	קֵל	מֵא	וְ	אַרְבָּע			
of the sanctuary	shekels after the shekel		hundred		and four			
H6944	H8255		H3967		H702			

