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**Shekel  
of the  
Sanctuary**

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Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

## Shekel of the Sanctuary.

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To prevent cheating, the priests' kept shekels in the sanctuary for the standard weight and value that all shekels must conform to, and, against which the shekel the people brought to the priest would be measured for legitimacy, and legality. This stopped people from passing off counterfeit coins, and coins of lesser weight, and guaranteed every shekel was a genuine weight and not a counterfeit.

**The weight of the shekel:** was between 7grams to 17grams; the most common weights were:

- 11 grams.
- 14 grams.
- 17 grams.

In New Testament times, a shekel was a silver coin weighing, about 11 grams. To give a visual Idea of the weight of the shekel an Australian 50 cent coin weighs around 15 grams. The following verses show that one shekel is equal to twenty gerahs and that sixty shekels equals one mina.

- The shekel shall be twenty gerahs; twenty shekels plus twenty-five shekels plus fifteen shekels shall be your mina. (Ezek. 45:12).
- You shall take five shekels per head; you shall take them according to the shekel of the sanctuary (the shekel of twenty gerahs). (Num. 3:47).
- Their redemption price (at a month old you shall redeem them) you shall fix at five shekels in silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs. (Num. 18:16).
- 1 gerah = 0.00057 kgs.
- 20 gerah = 0.0114 kg.
- 1 mina = 0.499kgs (about ½ kilogram).
- It takes sixty shekels to equal one mina.

The half shekel had to be weighed against the weight of the shekel of the sanctuary. This means that the shekel kept in the sanctuary would be place on one side of the scales and the shekel being offered on the other side. This was to check that the shekel being offered was equal to half the weight of the sanctuary shekel.

During Moses era Israel had a standard system of weights and measures, and during the census God's people paid a tax of half a shekel according to the shekel of the sanctuary (Exod. 30:13) which was used to provide for the needs of the tabernacle and its priests.