

Biblical Weights and Measures

“The ephah and the bath shall be of one measure, that the bath may contain the tenth part of an homer, and the ephah the tenth part of an homer: the measure thereof shall be after the homer. And the shekel shall be twenty gerahs: twenty shekels, five and twenty shekels, fifteen shekels, shall be your maneh.”

Ezekiel 45:11-12

Biblical Weights And Measures

by Carl Graham

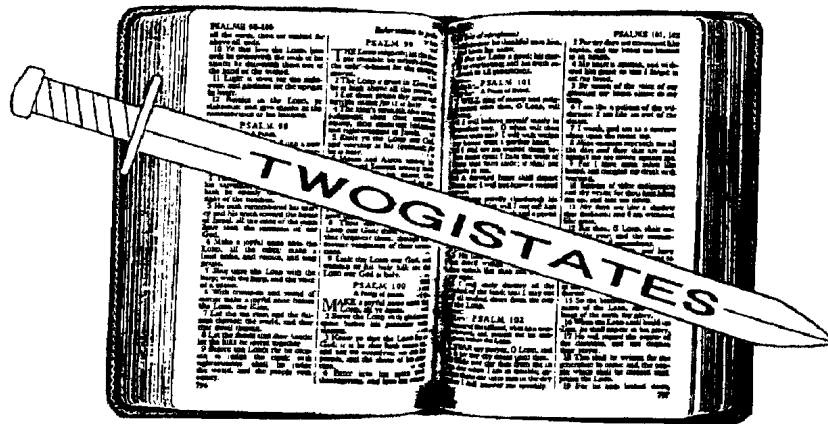
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TWOGISTATES PUBLISHERS

E-mail: carlgraham@twogistates.com

Web: <http://www.twogistates.com>

**TWOGISTATES Publishers advocate the King James Bible
as the best source for God's Word in English**



**For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any
twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of
soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a
discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.**

Hebrews 4:12

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Biblical Weights and Measures

This booklet provides values for the most popular weights and measurements in the Bible. The first part gives the biblical names along with their current values. The second part gives some of the standard U. S. values to provide a reference point. All the following numbers are approximate, but are close enough to give a feel for the value and size of the various items of measurement.

Dry Measure

Bushel = 4 pecks = 32 quarts

Cab, or kab = 2 quarts

Cor (Kor) = 6 bushels

Ephah = $\frac{3}{5}$ bushel

Half-homer = $5 \frac{1}{2}$ bushels

Homer = 11 bushels

Measure = 4 pecks

Omer = 2 quarts

Peck = 8 quarts

Seah = 6 quarts

Tenth Deal = 4 quarts

Liquid Measure

Bath = 8 gallons

Firkin = 9 gallons

Hin = $1 \frac{1}{2}$ gallon

Homer = 80 gallons

Log = 1 pint

Seah = 3 gallons

Linear Measure

Finger = $\frac{3}{4}$ inches

Handbreadth = 3 inches

Span = 9 inches

Cubit = the length of a man's forearm = about 18 inches

Reed/Rod = 9 feet

Fathom = 6 feet

Pace = approximately 5 feet in Roman measurement

Furlong = 606 feet

Mile = 4854 feet (nine-tenths of an English mile)

Sabbath day's journey (two thousand paces) = about 5000 feet

Day's journey = approximately 20 miles

Weight

Bekah (beka) = $\frac{1}{5}$ ounce

Gerah = $\frac{1}{50}$ ounce

Maneh = 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds

Shekel = $\frac{2}{5}$ ounce

Talent = 75 pounds

Money

The list below gives expressed weight in troy units and calculated money values based on a value of silver at \$5.00 per troy ounce and gold at \$400.00 per troy ounce. While these values given may differ somewhat to the actual measured values, they are close enough to display the magnitude and differences of the individual items. (Values extracted from Boston Christian Bible Study Resource web page.)

Beka = 0.182 oz. troy = \$0.91 silver

Drachma (piece of silver) = 0.27 oz. Troy = \$108.00 gold

Denarius = approximately \$0.05 silver; \$4.00 gold

Farthing = Approximately \$0.04

Gerah = 0.082 oz. troy = \$0.09 silver; \$7.28 gold

Mina (pound) = 18.2 # troy = \$91.00 silver; \$7,280.00 gold

Mite = between 1 and 2 cents

Piece of Silver (drachma) = .27 oz. Troy = \$1.35

Penny = approximately \$0.05

Pound (mina) 18.2 # troy = \$91.00 silver; \$7,280.00 gold

Shekel = 0.364 troy oz = \$1.82 silver; \$145.00 gold

Talent = 91 pounds troy = \$5,460.00 silver; \$435,800.00 gold

Descending Values in Linear Measurements

Finger = 75 inches

Handbreadth = 3 inches

Span = 9 inches

Cubit = 18 inches

Pace = 6 feet

Rod (Reed) = 9 feet

Descending Values in Money

Mite = between 1 and 2 cents

Farthing = Approximately \$0.04

Penny = approximately \$0.05

Denarius (silver) = approximately \$0.05

Gerah (silver) = \$0.09

Beka (silver) = \$0.91

Piece of Silver (drachma) = \$1.35

Shekel (silver) = \$1.82

Denarius (gold) = approximately \$4.00

Gerah (gold) = \$7.28

Drachma (gold) = \$108.00

Mina (pound) (silver) = \$91.00

Pound (mina) (silver) = \$91.00

Shekel (gold) = \$145.00

Talent (silver) = \$5,460.00

Mina (pound) (gold) = \$7,280.00

Pound (mina) (gold) = \$7,280.00

Talent (gold) = \$435,800

U. S. CUSTOMARY WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The items immediately following are the customary measuring units in the United States. They may be used as reference points for the biblical weights and measurements.

Avoirdupois Weight

16 drams = 1 ounce

16 ounces = 1 pound

2,000 pounds = 1 ton

Troy Weight

24 grains = 1 penny-weight

20 pennyweights = 1 ounce

12 ounces = 1 pound

Linear Measure

12 inches = 1 foot

3 feet = 1 yard

5 1/2 yards = 1 rod

40 poles = 1 furlong

8 furlongs = 1760 yards = 5280 feet = 1 mile

Liquid Measure

4 gills = 1 pint

2 pints = 1 quart

4 quarts = 1 gallon

Dry Measure

2 pints = 1 quart

8 quarts = 1 peck

4 pecks = 1 bushel.

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PUBLICATIONS INDEX

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T_{he} **W**_{ord} **O**_f **G**_{od} **I**_s **S**_{harper} **T**_{han} **A**_{ny} **T**_{wo} **E**_{dged} **S**_{word}

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