~MONEY (724)
." Coins In The Hebrew Scriptures
." Money In The Christian Scripture Period
" ${ }^{\text {P Purchasing Power }}$
". Money Can Be Both Beneficial And Harmful
A medium of exchange. Anciently, livestock often figured in barter, that is, the exchange of one item for another and evidently the oldest method of making a business transaction. Indicative of this is the fact that the Latin word for money, pecunia, is drawn from pecus, meaning, cattle. However, livestock,

And they began bringing their livestock to Joseph, and Joseph kept giving them bread in exchange for their horses and the livestock of the flock and the livestock of the herd and the asses, and he kept providing them with bread in exchange for all their livestock during that year. (Genesis 47:17)

- Foodstuffs
- So Hiram became a giver of timbers of cedar trees and timbers of juniper trees to Solomon according to all his delight. (1 Kings 5:10)
- And Solomon, for his part, gave Hiram twenty thousand cor measures of wheat as food supplies for his household and twenty cor measures of beaten-out oil. That was what Solomon kept giving Hiram year by year. (1 Kings 5:11)
- Were not always convenient mediums of exchange. Therefore metals such as gold and silver came to be used. As early as Abraham's time, precious metals served as money. But this was not standard coined money.
- It consisted of silver and gold, doubtless molded for convenience into bars, rings, bracelets, or other standard shapes having a specific weight.

Consequently it came about that, when the camels had finished drinking, then the man took a gold nose ring of a half shekel in weight and two bracelets for her hands, ten shekels of gold was their weight. (Genesis 24:22)

- When I got to see among the spoil an official garment from Shinar, a good-looking one, and two hundred shekels of silver and one gold bar, fifty shekels being its weight, then I wanted them, and I took them, and, look! They are hidden in the earth in the midst of my tent with the money underneath it. (Joshua 7:21)
- The usual Hebrew term rendered, money, literally means, silver.
- And every male of yours eight days old must be circumcised, according to your generations, anyone born in the house and anyone purchased with money from any foreigner who is not from your seed. (Genesis 17:12) Footnote
- Often the metal objects were weighed by the individuals concerned when payment was made.
- My lord, listen to me. A land plot worth four hundred silver shekels, what is that between me and you? So bury your dead. (Genesis 23:15)
- Accordingly Abraham listened to Ephron, and Abraham weighed out to Ephron the amount of silver that he had spoken in the hearing of the sons of Heth, four hundred silver shekels current with the merchants. (Genesis $\mathbf{2 3 : 1 6 )}$
- Then I wrote in a deed and affixed the seal and took witnesses as I went weighing the money in the scales. (Jeremiah 32:10)
- As business transactions involved weighing, understandably designations of weights were also monetary designations. Among the Israelites there were five main divisions, the gerah, half shekel or bekah, shekel, mina or maneh, and talent.
- Of a talent of pure gold he should make it with all these utensils of it. (Exodus 25:39)

This is what all those will give who pass over to those numbered: a half shekel by the shekel of the holy place. Twenty gerahs equal a shekel. A half shekel is the contribution to Yehowah. (Exodus 30:13)

- And the silver of the ones registered of the assembly was a
hundred talents and one thousand seven hundred and seventyfive shekels by the shekel of the holy place. (Exodus 38:25)
- The half shekel for an individual was the half of a shekel by the shekel of the holy place, for every man who was passing over to those who were registered from twenty years of age and upward, amounting to six hundred and three thousand five hundred and fifty. (Exodus 38:26)
- And three hundred bucklers of alloyed gold, three minas of gold he proceeded to lay upon each buckler. Then the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon. (1 Kings 10:17)
- And the shekel is twenty gerahs. Twenty shekels, twenty-five shekels, fifteen shekels should prove to be the maneh for you. (Ezekiel 45:12)
- Their relationship and comparative modern values in gold and silver are set forth below. The price of gold and of silver has varied in recent years. In this publication, gold is conservatively calculated at $\$ 350.00$ per ounce troy and silver at $\$ 6.00$ per ounce troy, the ancient ratio of gold to silver, however, is considered to have been 13 to 1.

See Also WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
See Also GERAH
See Also MINA
See Also SHEKEL
See Also TALENT
Gold Silver
1 gerah $=1 / 20$ shekel $\$ 6.42 \quad \$ .11$
1 bekah $=10$ gerahs $\quad 64.23 \quad 1.10$
1 shekel = 2 bekahs $\quad 128.45 \quad 2.20$
1 mina $=50$ shekels $\quad 6,422.50 \quad 110.10$
1 talent $=60$ minas $385,350.00 \quad 6,606.00$

- The value of the piece (s) of money, Hebrew, qesi-tah' mentioned at;

Then he acquired a tract of the field where he pitched his tent at the hand of the sons of Hamor the father of Shechem, for a hundred pieces of money. (Genesis 33:19)

And Joseph's bones, which the sons of Israel had brought up out
of Egypt, they buried in Shechem in the tract of the field that Jacob had acquired from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, for a hundred pieces of money, and it came to belong to the sons of Joseph as an inheritance. (Joshua 24:32)

- And there kept coming to him all his brothers and all his sisters and all those formerly knowing him, and they began to eat bread with him in his house and to sympathize with him and to comfort him over all the calamity that Yehowah had let come upon him, and they proceeded each one to give him a piece of money and each one a gold ring. (Job 42:11)
- Cannot be definitely established. Likewise the value of the pim is uncertain. It may have been about two thirds of a shekel.
- And the price for sharpening proved to be a pim for the plowshares and for the mattocks and for the three-toothed instruments and for the axes and for fixing fast the oxgoad. (1 Samuel 13:21)

See Also PIM
.. Coins In The Hebrew Scriptures

- It is commonly believed that the first coins were struck about 700 B.C.E. The Israelites may have first used coins in their homeland after returning from exile in Babylon. Postexilic Bible books refer to the Persian daric
- Accordingly they gave to the service of the house of the true God gold worth five thousand talents and ten thousand darics and silver worth ten thousand talents and copper worth eighteen thousand talents and iron worth a hundred thousand talents. (1 Chronicles 29:7)
- And twenty small gold bowls worth a thousand darics and two utensils of good copper, gleaming red, as desirable as gold. (Ezra 8:27)
- And drachmas Hebrew, dar-kemoh-nim', which are generally equated with the daric.
- According to their power they gave gold for the working supplies, sixty-one thousand drachmas, and silver, five thousand minas,
and a hundred robes of priests. (Ezra 2:69)
And there was a part of the heads of the paternal houses that gave to the work. The Tirshatha himself gave to the treasure a thousand gold drachmas, fifty bowls, five hundred and thirty priests robes. (Nehemiah 7:70)
- And there were some of the heads of the paternal houses that gave to the treasure for the work twenty thousand gold drachmas and two thousand two hundred silver minas. (Nehemiah 7:71)
- And what the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand gold drachmas and two thousand silver minas and sixty-seven priests robes. (Nehemiah 7:72)

The Persian gold daric weighed 8.4 grams ( 0.27 ounces troy) and is therefore presently evaluated at $\mathbf{\$ 9 4 . 5 0}$.

## See Also DARIC

See Also DRACHMA
. Money In The Christian Scripture Period

- The lepton (Jewish), quadrans (Roman), as or assarion (Roman and provincial), denarius (Roman), drachma (Greek), didrachma (Greek), and the stater (Greek), considered by many to be the tetradrachma of Antioch or Tyre are coins specifically mentioned in the Christian Greek Scriptures.
- I say to you for a fact, You will certainly not come out from there until you have paid over the last coin of very little value. (Matthew 5:26)
- Do not two sparrows sell for a coin of small value? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Fathers knowledge. (Matthew 10:29)
- After they arrived in Capernaum the men collecting the two drachmas tax approached Peter and said; Does your teacher not pay the two drachmas tax? (Matthew 17:24)
- But that we do not cause them to stumble, you go to the sea, cast a fishhook, and take the first fish coming up and, when you
open its mouth, you will find a stater coin. Take that and give it to them for me and you. (Matthew 17:27)

So, when the first came, they concluded they would receive more, but they also received pay at the rate of a denarius. (Matthew 20:10)

- Now a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins, which have very little value. (Mark 12:42)

Five sparrows sell for two coins of small value, do they not? Yet not one of them goes forgotten before God. (Luke 12:6)

I tell you, You will certainly not get out from there until you pay over the last small coin of very little value. (Luke 12:59)

Or what woman with ten drachma coins, if she loses one drachma coin, does not light a lamp and sweep her house and search carefully until she finds it? (Luke 15:8)

- The much larger monetary values known as minas and talents were weights, not coins.

When he started to settle them, there was brought in a man who owed him ten thousand talents equaling sixty-million, denarii. (Matthew 18:24)

Calling ten slaves of his he gave them ten minas and told them, Do business till I come. (Luke 19:13)

But his citizens hated him and sent out a body of ambassadors after him, to say; We do not want this man to become king over us. (Luke 19:14)

- Eventually when he got back after having secured the kingly power, he commanded to be called to him these slaves to whom he had given the silver money, in order to ascertain what they had gained by business activity. (Luke 19:15)

Then the first one presented himself, saying; Lord, your mina gained ten minas. (Luke 19:16)

So he said to him; Well done, good slave! Because in a very small matter you have proved yourself faithful, hold authority
over ten cities. (Luke 19:17)
Now the second came, saying; Your mina, Lord, made five minas. (Luke 19:18)

He said to this one also; You, too, be in charge of five cities. (Luke 19:19)

- But a different one came, saying; Lord, here is your mina, that I kept laid away in a cloth. (Luke 19:20)
- You see, I was in fear of you, because you are a harsh man. You take up what you did not deposit and you reap what you did not sow. (Luke 19:21)
- He said to him, Out of your own mouth I judge you, wicked slave. You knew, did you, that I am a harsh man, taking up what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow? (Luke 19:22)
- Hence why is it you did not put my silver money in a bank? Then on my arrival I would have collected it with interest. (Luke 19:23)
- With that he said to those standing by; Take the mina from him and give it to him that has the ten minas. (Luke 19:24)
- But they said to him; Lord, he has ten minas! (Luke 19:25)
- The chart that follows shows the relationship between the various monetary units and converts these into approximate modern values.
- Then he saw a certain needy widow drop two small coins of very little value there. (Luke 21:2) Int


## See Also DENARIUS

## See Also STATER

|  | Modern | Value |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |
| 1 lepton (copper | $=1 / 2$ quadrans | $\$$ | .006 |
| or bronze) |  |  |  |
| 1 quadrans (copper <br> or bronze) | $=2$ lepta |  | .012 |

1 as (assarion) $=4$ quadrantes . 046
(copper or bronze)
1 denarius (silver) = 16 asses 74
1 drachma (silver) = . 65
1 didrachma (silver) = 2 drachmas 1.31
1 tetradrachma* $=4$ drachmas 2.62
1 mina (silver) $=100$ drachmas 65.40
1 talent (silver) $=60$ minas $3,924.00$
1 talent (gold) $=\quad 228,900.00$

* Thought to be the same as stater (silver)


## - Purchasing Power

- Modern values for ancient money do not give a true picture of its worth. The Bible, however, provides some indication of purchasing power and this is helpful in understanding ancient values. In the time of Jesus earthly ministry, agricultural laborers commonly received a denarius for a 12-hour workday.

When he had agreed with the workers for a denarius a day, he sent them forth into his vineyard. (Matthew 20:2)

- It may be assumed that in the Hebrew Scripture period wages were about the same. If so, a silver shekel would be the equivalent of three days wages.
- The price of a slave was $\mathbf{3 0}$ silver shekels, perhaps $\mathbf{9 0}$ days wages.

If it was a slave man or a slave girl that the bull gored, he will give the price of thirty shekels to that one's master, and the bull will be stoned. (Exodus 21:32)

Speak to the sons of Israel, and you must say to them; In case a man makes a special vow offering of souls to Yehowah according to the estimated value. (Leviticus 27:2)

And the estimated value has to be of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old, the estimated value must then become fifty shekels of silver by the shekel of the holy place. (Leviticus 27:3)

But if it is a female, the estimated value must then become thirty
shekels. (Leviticus 27:4)

- And if the age is from five years old up to twenty years old, the estimated value of the male must then become twenty shekels and for the female ten shekels. (Leviticus 27:5)
- And if the age is from a month old up to five years old, the estimated value of the male must then become five shekels of silver and for the female the estimated value must be three shekels of silver. (Leviticus 27:6)
- Now if the age is from sixty years old upward, if it is a male, the estimated value must then become fifteen shekels and for the female ten shekels. (Leviticus 27:7)
- Hosea the prophet purchased a woman for 15 silver pieces and one and a half homers ( 15 ephahs) of barley. Likely this payment constituted the full price for a slave. If so, an ephah ( 22 liters)(20 dry quarts) of barley was then worth one shekel.
- And I proceeded to purchase her for myself for fifteen silver pieces and a homer measure of barley and a half-homer of barley. (Hosea 3:2)
- In times of scarcity, prices rose sharply. The $\mathbf{8 0}$ silver pieces (c. 240 days wages, that at one time might have bought eight homers ( 1,760 liters)( 50 bushels) of barley would, in time of siege, only procure the thinly fleshed head of an ass, an animal unfit for food according to the terms of the Mosaic Law.
- In time a great famine arose in Samaria, and, look! They were besieging it until an ass's head got to be worth eighty silver pieces, and the fourth of a cab measure of doves dung was worth five silver pieces. (2 Kings 6:25)
- And I proceeded to purchase her for myself for fifteen silver pieces and a homer measure of barley and a half-homer of barley. (Hosea 3:2)
- In the First Century C.E. two sparrows cost an assarion, 45 minutes wages, and five sparrows could be obtained for double this price.

Do not two sparrows sell for a coin of small value? Yet not one of
them will fall to the ground without your Fathers knowledge. (Matthew 10:29)

- Five sparrows sell for two coins of small value, do they not? Yet not one of them goes forgotten before God. (Luke 12:6)
- The temple contribution of the needy widow that Jesus observed was even less, a mere two lepta (1 quadrans), or $\mathbf{1 / 6 4}$ of a day's wages. Yet Christ Jesus commended her giving as being greater than that of those who had donated much, because she had contributed, not part of her surplus, but all of what she had, her whole living.

Now a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins, which have very little value. (Mark 12:42)

So he called his disciples to him and said to them; Truly I say to you that this poor widow dropped in more than all those dropping money into the treasury chests. (Mark 12:43)

- For they all dropped in out of their surplus, but she, out of her want, dropped in all of what she had, her whole living. (Mark 12:44)
- Then he saw a certain needy widow drop two small coins of very little value there. (Luke 21:2)
- And he said; I tell you truthfully, This widow, although poor, dropped in more than they all did. (Luke 21:3)
- For all these dropped in gifts out of their surplus, but this woman out of her want dropped in all the means of living she had. (Luke 21:4)
- The annual temple tax paid by the Jews was two drachmas, or a didrachma, about two days wages.

After they arrived in Capernaum the men collecting the two drachmas tax approached Peter and said; Does your teacher not pay the two drachmas tax? (Matthew 17:24)

- As a drachma was the equivalent of about a day's wages, a woman might reasonably sweep her whole house and diligently search for a lost drachma coin.
- Or what woman with ten drachma coins, if she loses one drachma coin, does not light a lamp and sweep her house and search carefully until she finds it? (Luke 15:8)
- And when she has found it she calls the women who are her friends and neighbors together, saying; Rejoice with me, because I have found the drachma coin that I lost. (Luke 15:9)
- Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for $\mathbf{3 0}$ pieces of silver, evidently the price of a slave.
- Then one of the twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests. (Matthew 26:14)
" And said; What will you give me to betray him to you? They stipulated to him thirty silver pieces. (Matthew 26:15)
- So from then on he kept seeking a good opportunity to betray him. (Matthew 26:16)
- And while he was yet speaking, look! Judas, one of the twelve, came and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs from the chief priests and older men of the people. (Matthew 26:47)
- Now his betrayer had given them a sign, saying; Whoever it is I kiss, this is he, take him into custody. (Matthew 26:48)
- And going straight up to Jesus he said; Good day, Rabbi! And kissed him very tenderly. (Matthew 26:49)
- But Jesus said to him; Fellow, for what purpose are you present? Then they came forward and laid hands on Jesus and took him into custody. (Matthew 26:50)
- No doubt these silver pieces were either shekels or other coins similar in value. But the kind of coin is not specified in the account, except for their being silver.
". Money Can Be Both Beneficial And Harmful
- Money provides a defense against poverty and its attendant troubles, enabling persons to procure both necessities and luxuries.

For wisdom is for a protection the same as money is for a
protection, but the advantage of knowledge is that wisdom itself preserves alive its owners. (Ecclesiastes 7:12)

- Bread is for the laughter of the workers, and wine itself makes life rejoice, but money is what meets a response in all things. (Ecclesiastes 10:19)
- For this reason the possibility exists of a person's beginning to trust in money as security and to forget his Creator.
- When you have eaten and satisfied yourself, you must also bless Yehowah your God for the good land that he has given you. (Deuteronomy 8:10)
- Watch out for yourself that you may not forget Yehowah your God so as not to keep his commandments and his judicial decisions and his statutes that I am commanding you today. (Deuteronomy 8:11)
- For fear that you may eat and indeed satisfy yourself, and you may build good houses and indeed dwell in them. (Deuteronomy 8:12)
- And your herd and your flock may increase, and silver and gold may increase for you, and all that is yours may increase. (Deuteronomy 8:13)
- And your heart may indeed be lifted up and you may indeed forget Yehowah your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slaves. (Deuteronomy 8:14)
- The love of money, literally, fondness of silver, is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains.

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of injurious things, and by reaching out for this love some have been led astray from the faith and have stabbed themselves all over with many pains. (1 Timothy 6:10)

- For money, persons have perverted justice, prostituted themselves, committed murder, betrayed others, and falsified the truth.

You must not pervert judgment. You must not be partial or accept a bribe, for the bribe blinds the eyes of wise ones and distorts the words of righteous ones. (Deuteronomy 16:19)

You must not bring the hire of a harlot or the price of a dog into the house of Yehowah your God for any vow, because they are something detestable to Yehowah your God, even both of them. (Deuteronomy 23:18)

Cursed is the one who accepts a bribe to strike a soul fatally, when it is innocent blood. And all the people must say; Amen! (Deuteronomy 27:25)

A bribe they have taken in you for the purpose of shedding blood. Interest and usury you have taken, and you violently keep making gain of your companions with defrauding, and me you have forgotten, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. (Ezekiel 22:12)

Then one of the twelve, the one called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests. (Matthew 26:14)

And said; What will you give me to betray him to you? They stipulated to him thirty silver pieces. (Matthew 26:15)

While they were on their way, look! Some of the guard went into the city and reported to the chief priests all the things that had happened. (Matthew 28:11)

And after these had gathered together with the older men and taken counsel, they gave a sufficient number of silver pieces to the soldiers (Matthew 28:12)

And said; say; His disciples came in the night and stole him while we were sleeping. (Matthew 28:13)

And if this gets to the governor's ears, we will persuade him and will set you free from worry. (Matthew 28:14)

So they took the silver pieces and did as they were instructed, and this saying has been spread abroad among the Jews up to this very day. (Matthew 28:15)

On the other hand, the proper use of money is approved by God.
Then he went on to say also to the disciples; A certain man was rich and he had a steward, and this one was accused to him as handling his goods wastefully. (Luke 16:1)

So he called him and said to him; What is this I hear about you? Hand in the account of your stewardship, for you can no longer manage the house. (Luke 16:2)

Then the steward said to himself; What am I to do, seeing that my master will take the stewardship away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, I am ashamed to beg. (Luke 16:3)

Ah! I know what I shall do, so that, when I am put out of the stewardship, people will receive me into their homes. (Luke 16:4)

And calling to him each one of the debtors of his master he proceeded to say to the first, How much are you owing my master? (Luke 16:5)

He said; A hundred bath measures of olive oil. He said to him, Take your written agreement back and sit down and quickly write fifty. (Luke 16:6)

Next, he said to another one, Now you, how much are you owing? He said; A hundred cor measures of wheat. He said to him, Take your written agreement back and write eighty. (Luke 16:7)

And his master commended the steward, though unrighteous, because he acted with practical wisdom, for the sons of this system of things are wiser in a practical way toward their own generation than the sons of the light are. (Luke 16:8)

- Also, I say to you, Make friends for yourselves by means of the unrighteous riches, so that, when such fail, they may receive you into the everlasting dwelling places. (Luke 16:9)
- This includes contributing toward the advancement of pure worship and giving material assistance to those in need.
- Now it occurred afterward that it became close to the heart of

Jehoash to renovate the house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 24:4)
Accordingly he collected the priests and the Levites together and said to them; Go out to the cities of Judah and collect money from all Israel to repair the house of your God from year to year, and you, for your part, should act quickly in the matter. And the Levites did not act quickly. (2 Chronicles 24:5)

So the king called Jehoiada the head and said to him; Why is it that you have not required an account of the Levites for bringing in from Judah and Jerusalem the sacred tax ordered by Moses the servant of Yehowah, even that of the congregation of Israel, for the tent of the Testimony? (2 Chronicles 24:6)

For as regards Athaliah the wicked woman, her sons themselves had broken into the house of the true God, and even all the holy things of the house of Yehowah they had rendered up to the Baals. (2 Chronicles 24:7)

Then the king said the word, and so they made a chest and put it outside at the gate of the house of Yehowah. (2 Chronicles 24:8)

After that they issued a call throughout Judah and Jerusalem to bring to Yehowah the sacred tax ordered by Moses the servant of the true God upon Israel in the wilderness. (2 Chronicles 24:9)

And all the princes and all the people began to rejoice, and they kept bringing and casting it into the chest until they all had given. (2 Chronicles 24:10)

And it came about at the proper time he would bring the chest to the care of the king by the hand of the Levites, and, as soon as they saw that there was plenty of money, the secretary of the king and the commissioner of the chief priest came and then emptied the chest and lifted it up and returned it to its place. That was the way they did from day to day, so that they gathered money in abundance. (2 Chronicles 24:11)

Then the king and Jehoiada would give it to the doers of the work of the service of Yehowah's house, and they came to be hirers of the stonecutters and of the craftsmen for renovating Yehowah's house, and also of the workers in iron and copper for repairing Yehowah's house. (2 Chronicles 24:12)

And the doers of the work began operations, and the repair work kept advancing by their hand, and finally they made the house of the true God stand as it structurally should and made it strong. (2 Chronicles 24:13)

- And as soon as they had finished they brought before the king and Jehoiada the rest of the money, and they proceeded to make utensils for the house of Yehowah, utensils for the ministry and for making offerings and cups and utensils of gold and of silver, and they came to be offerers of burnt sacrifices in the house of Yehowah constantly all the days of Jehoiada. (2 Chronicles 24:14)
- Share with the holy ones according to their needs. Follow the course of hospitality. (Romans 12:13)
- But whoever has this world's means for supporting life and beholds his brother having need and yet shuts the door of his tender compassions upon him, in what way does the love of God remain in him? (1 John 3:17)
- Little children, let us love, neither in word nor with the tongue, but in deed and truth. (1 John 3:18)
- Although much good can thus be done with money, the most valuable things spiritual food and drink, eternal life itself can be obtained without it.
- Hey there, all you thirsty ones! Come to the water. And the ones that have no money! Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk even without money and without price. (Isaiah 55:1)
- Why do you people keep paying out money for what is not bread, and why is your toil for what results in no satisfaction? Listen intently to me, and eat what is good, and let your soul find its exquisite delight in fatness itself. (Isaiah 55:2)
- And the spirit and the bride keep on saying; Come! And let anyone hearing say; Come! And let anyone thirsting come, let anyone that wishes take lifes water free. (Revelation 22:17)

See Also CONTRIBUTION
See Also GIFTS OF MERCY

