

Arachim – Fixed Values as Prescribed by Torah

Ref: *Sefer Haflaah, Hilchot Arachin, Chapters 1 and 4*

Reminder:


Pack on Consecration



Valuation of man¹

Definition of *Arachim* (Vows of Valuation) and *Damim* (Vows of Worth) and their amounts. *Arachim* as prescribed by Torah, is based on the *age* of the person and these are fixed values.

- Less than 30 days old, *erech* = 0
- 30 days – 5 years (i.e. 5th birthday) = 5 silver *shekalim* for male
= 3 Silver *shekalim* for female
- Beginning of 6th year (5 years and 1 day) – end of 20th year = 20 silver *shekalim* for male
= 10 silver *shekalim* for female
- Beginning of 21st year (20 years and 1 day) – end of 60th year = 50 silver *shekalim* for male
= 30 silver *shekalim* for female
- Beginning of 61st year (60 years and 1 day) – death = 15 silver *shekalim* for male
= 10 silver *shekalim* for female
- 1 holy *shekel* = weight in silver of 320 barely corns

 *Rabanim* added to the *shekel* making it a *sela* = 384 barley corn and one must now give the greater value.

The way it works for example is that person says, 'I pledge my *erech* to the Temple'. Depending on his age, he donates this amount to the Temple.

Arachin do not depend on the physical or mental state etc. of a person, only their age.

All *arachim* are dedicated to physical improvements in the Temple.

Damim is valued as a servant in the market place, and is independent of age or other status values.

Commitment only becomes binding after person, whose *erech* or *damim* was pledged, appears in front of *Bet Din* for appraisal.

Reminder:

Pack on Weights and Measures



Valuation of Field²

Sedei Achuzah (Field of possession) *Sedei Miknah* (Field of purchase).

SEDEI ACHUZAH

There is a fixed *erech* as prescribed by Torah.

50 *shekel* for each area which can contain a *chomer* of barley for 49 years (jubilee). [Jubilee year – 50th – not counted] (Regardless of the quality of land)

Therefore, *erech* for 1 year = 1 *sela* + 1 *pundion* as follows:

The *Rabanim* upgraded the value of the Holy *shekel* of Torah to equal 1 *sela*.

1 SELA



1 *Shekel* = 1 *sela* (the *shekel* of Torah = 320 barely corn of silver. The *Rabanim* upgraded it to 384 barely corn of silver. Similarly with *gerah* of Torah to *maah*.)

1 *Gerah* = 1 *maah*

1 *Sela* = 4 *dinar*

1 *Dinar* = 6 *maah*

1 *Maah* = 2 *pundionim*

Therefore 1 *Sela* = 48 *pundionim*

The money changer took 1 *pundion* to exchange a *sela*.

Therefore 1 *sela* cost 49 *pundionim*.

Therefore 50 *shekel* over 49 years = 1 *shekel* + 1 *pundion* per year.