

Half Shekel Consecrated

Ref: *Sefer Zemanim, Hilchot Shekalim, Chapters 1 and 3*



Every person to give $\frac{1}{2}$ *shekel* every year¹.

- Every adult Jewish male gave $\frac{1}{2}$ shekel once a year
- This amount had to be given all at once
- Through time if $\frac{1}{2}$ *shekel* was not current, one could give $\frac{1}{2}$ of the common currency
- But this should never be less than that given at the time of *Mosheh*, namely the weight of 160 barley corns of silver. (The shekel at the time of Mosheh Rabenu weighed 320 barleycorns of silver, and the Rabbis added to this and made it weigh 384 barley corns of silver.)
- Observed only during time when Temple standing (however we still observe the half *shekel* as a custom, on *Taanit Esther*)



In the Temple there were 13 chests.

- *Shekalim* of first year
- *Shekalim* of previous year
- Funds for 2 turtle doves (one for Burnt Offering and one for Sin Offering)
- Funds for doves for Burnt Offering only
- Donations for wood
- Donations for frankincense
- Gold donations for Ark cover
- Excess funds from Sin Offering
- Excess funds from Guilt Offering
- Excess funds from doves of *zav* and childbirth
- Excess funds from *Nazir*
- Excess funds from Offering of *Metzora*

Reminder:

Metzora

Ref: *Sefer Korbanot, Hilchot Mechusrei Kaparah, Chapter 4*



- Pledges for a Burnt Offering



However, the *Bet Din* decreed that all excess Sacrifice money could be used for Burnt Offering of animals i.e. from last 6 categories.

Reminder:

Pack on *Korbanot Basics*

Pack on *Korbanot (Sacrifices)*



After collection of half *shekalim*, they were taken to one of the Chambers of the Temple

where they were stored in **three** large baskets. (*Trumat Halishkah*)

The size of each basket was enough to contain **9 seah**. Excess money to this was left in the Chamber (*Shearei Halishkah*)

Funds were taken out from this chamber **3** times / year


- *Rosh Chodesh Nissan*
- **15** days before *Shavuot*
- Near to *Rosh Chodesh Tishrei*

The funds were used mainly for sacrifices and included the entire Jewish People for atonement.

Money changers were entitled to charge a *Kolbon* to exchange a *shekel* for 2 half *shekalim*.

Kolbon = $\frac{1}{2}$ *maah* = $\frac{1}{12}$ *Dinar*

The *kolbon* was also consecrated property but was kept separately from the *shekalim*.

	Liability and consecration	Explanation
One individual changes a <i>shekel</i> for 2 half <i>shekel</i> and pays 1 <i>kolbon</i>	Duty discharged	
2 Individuals change 1 <i>shekel</i> and pay 1 <i>kolbon</i>	Duty discharged	
Women, Slaves, Priests	Not liable	Their contribution is voluntary and therefore do not need to pay the <i>kolbon</i>
Loss of half <i>shekel</i>	Liable	Up until it reaches Temple Treasures
An unpaid <i>shaliach</i> (agent) is delivering <i>shekalim</i> for community and loses them  <i>Derabanan</i> an oath must be taken whenever consecrated property involved	Community liable	Half <i>shekalim</i> must be given a second time Even if first set found, both sets belong to Temple
A paid <i>shaliach</i> loses the <i>shekalim</i>		Depending on circumstances <i>shaliach</i> may be liable and community may be liable to pay again
Gives half <i>shekel</i> from funds already consecrated	Duty discharged	But obligated to correct the misappropriation
Gives half <i>shekel</i> from apostate city	Not consecrated	As if gave nothing
Set aside coin but then discovered that he was not liable	Not consecrated	Mistaken consecration does not result in consecration
Sets aside <i>shekel</i> and then dies		A dead person does not need atonement
Puts aside coins to save for half <i>shekel</i> and over saves		Extra cash not consecrated
Funds found near a chest in Temple		Belong to chest closest to it

🔔 Reminder:

Table Definition of Watchmen, Borrowers etc.
Sefer Mishpatim, Hilchot Sechirut, Chapters 1 and 2

