



Chart of Weights and Measurements of the Bible

Biblical Weights Chart

Weight	Hebrew / Greek Term	Biblical Usage	Approx. Modern Equivalent	Notes & References
Gerah	<i>gērâ</i> (גֶּרֶא)	Smallest standard weight; used in measuring silver, gold, temple tax	0.57 g (0.02 oz)	20 gerahs = 1 shekel (Exod 30:13; Lev 27:25; Num 3:47)
Bekah / Half-Shekel	<i>beqâ'</i> (בְּקָא')	Temple contribution	5.7 g (0.2 oz)	1/2 shekel; 10 gerahs (Exod 38:26)
Shekel (standard)	<i>sheqel</i> (שֶׁקֶל), <i>siklos</i> (σίγλος)	Most common weight for precious metals, goods, trade	11.4 g (0.4 oz)	1 shekel = 20 gerahs (Exod 30:13; 2 Sam 14:26)
Shekel (royal / heavy)	<i>sheqel ha-melekh</i>	Used in official or royal contexts	≈ 12.5–13 g (0.44 oz)	Slightly heavier than common shekel; implied in some passages (2 Sam 14:26)
Pim	<i>pîm</i> (פִּים)	Weight used by Philistines for sharpening tools	7.8 g (0.275 oz)	2/3 shekel; unique archaeological find (1 Sam 13:21)
Mina / Maneh	<i>māneh</i> (מָנֵה), <i>mna</i> (μνᾶ)	Larger trade weight for silver, gold	≈ 570 g (1.26 lb / 20 oz)	50 shekels = 1 mina (Ezek 45:12; 1 Kgs 10:17; Luke 19:13)
Talent (common)	<i>kikkâr</i> (קִכָּר), <i>talanton</i> (τάλαντον)	Largest standard weight, especially for metals, offerings, temple items	≈ 34 kg (75 lb)	60 minas = 1 talent (Exod 25:39; 1 Kgs 10:14; 2 Kgs 5:23; Matt 18:24)
Talent (heavy / king's)	<i>kikkâr gadol</i>	Used in national tribute or royal treasuries	≈ 45 kg (99 lb)	Heavier standard possibly used by monarchs; implied in tributes (1 Kgs 9:14; 2 Chron 3:8)
Dram / Daric (Persian coin weight)	<i>darkemôn</i> (דָּרְכוֹן)	Used after the exile for gold measurements	8.4 g (0.296 oz)	Persian gold coin; weight standard referenced (Ezra 2:69; Neh 7:70–72)
Litran (Roman pound)	<i>litra</i> (λίτρα)	Used in New Testament burial spices	327 g (0.72 lb / 11.5 oz)	100 litran ≈ 1 talent (John 19:39)



Weights Also Expressed via Coinage

Coin	Greek Name	Approx. Mass	Biblical Context
Lepton (widow's mite)	λεπτόν	0.25 g	Mark 12:42; Luke 21:2
Denarius	δηνάριον	3.9 g	Common wage/valuation (Matt 20:2; Rev 6:6)
Drachma	δραχμή	4.3 g	Lost coin parable (Luke 15:8)
Stater / Tetradrachm	στατήρ	≈ 17.2 g	Temple tax coin (Matt 17:27)

Biblical Lengths & Distances

Unit	Definition in Ancient Context	Approx. Modern Equivalent	Notes / Biblical Examples
Finger (etzba')	Smallest subdivision	~0.7–0.8 in / ~1.8–2.0 cm	1/4 handbreadth; Jeremiah 52:21
Handbreadth (tefah)	Width of the hand	~2.9–3.2 in / ~7.4–8.0 cm	4 fingers; Exodus 25:25
Span (zeret)	Thumb to little finger	~8.7–9.5 in / ~22–24 cm	3 handbreadths; Exodus 28:16; used in Goliath's height
Cubit (amah)	Elbow to fingertip	~17.5–18.0 in / ~45–46 cm	Standard Biblical measure; Genesis 6:15, Temple plans
Long (or Ezekiel's) Cubit	Cubit + 1 handbreadth	~20–21 in / ~50–53 cm	Ezekiel's temple measurements; Ezekiel 40:5
Reed / Rod	6 cubits	~9–10.5 ft / ~2.7–3.2 m	Used for large structural measures; Ezekiel 40–43
Fathom (orguia)	Distance of outstretched arms	~6 ft / ~1.8 m	Mentioned in Acts 27:28
Stadion (Furlong)	Greek stadion	~607 ft / ~185 m	Rev 14:20; Luke 24:13
Biblical Mile (Mil)	2,000 cubits (Rabbinic measure)	~0.6–0.7 mi / ~960–1150 m	Sabbath-day's limit; Acts 1:12; traditional Jewish mile
Day's Journey	Distance travelled in a day	~20 mi / ~32 km	Travel description; 1 Kings 19:4



Quick Reference Summary

Unit	Approx. Imperial	Approx. Metric
Finger	~0.7–0.8 in	~1.8–2.0 cm
Handbreadth	~2.9–3.2 in	~7.4–8.0 cm
Span	~8.7–9.5 in	~22–24 cm
Cubit	~17.5–18 in	~45–46 cm
Long Cubit	~20–21 in	~50–53 cm
Reed	~9–10.5 ft	~2.7–3.2 m
Fathom	~6 ft	~1.8 m
Furlong (Stadion)	~607 ft	~185 m
Biblical Mile	~0.6–0.7 mi	~960–1,150 m
Day's Journey	~20 mi	~32 km

Old Testament Liquid Measures

Biblical Unit	Sub-Units / Notes	Approx. Litres (UK)	Approx. UK Pints	Approx. UK Gallons	Scripture Examples
Log (גָּל)	Smallest liquid unit	0.3 L	0.53 pt	0.07 gal	Lev 14:10, 12, 15, 21, 24
Kab (קָבָב)	4 logs = 1 kab	1.2 L	2.11 pt	0.26 gal	2 Kgs 6:25
Hin (הִין)	12 logs = 1 hin	3.6–4.0 L	6.34–7.04 pt	0.79–0.88 gal	Ex 29:40, 30:24; Lev 19:36; Num 15:4–10
Seah (סֵاهָה)	3 seahs = 1 ephah (dry measure, but sometimes used for liquids by volume of vessels)	7.3 L	12.84 pt	1.6 gal	Gen 18:6 (likely vessel size, flour but relevant to container volume)
Bath (בָּתָה)	1/10 of a homer; 6 hins ≈ 1 bath	22–24 L	38.7–42.2 pt	4.8–5.3 gal	1 Kgs 7:26, 38; 2 Chr 2:10; Isa 5:10; Ezek 45:10–14
Homer (הָמָר) / Kor (כָּר)	Same as kor when liquid; 10 baths = 1 homer/kor	220–240 L	387–422 pt	48.4–52.8 gal	1 Kgs 5:11; 2 Chr 2:10; Ezek 45:14



New Testament (Greek/Roman) Liquid Measures

Biblical Unit	Sub-Units / Notes	Approx. Litres (UK)	Approx. UK Pints	Approx. UK Gallons	Scripture Examples
Kotyle / Cotyla (κοτύλη)	~½ sextarius	0.27 L	0.48 pt	0.06 gal	Implied in Mark 7:4 (washing cups)
Sextarius (ξέστης)	Roman pint; 2 cotylae = 1 sextes	0.54 L	0.95 pt	0.12 gal	Mark 7:4 (washing vessels)
Chous (χοῦς)	12 cotylae ≈ 6.5 L (varied by era)	6.5 L	11.44 pt	1.43 gal	John 2:6 (stone water jars held 2–3 metres each)
Metretes / Metretes (μετρητής)	Greek equivalent of Roman amphora; 1 metretes ≈ 39 L	38–40 L	66.9–70.4 pt	8.36–8.8 gal	John 2:6 (2–3 metres per jar)
Amphora / Greek Metretes	Large transport jar	38–40 L	66.9–70.4 pt	8.36–8.8 gal	Equivalent unit used in NT era trade (not named directly in NT text but relevant to metrete)

Quick Reference Summary

Unit	Approx. Volume
Log	0.3 L (½ UK pint)
Hin	~3.8 L (¾ UK gallon)
Bath	~23 L (5 UK gallons)
Homer/Kor	~230 L (50 UK gallons)
Sextarius	~0.54 L (1 Roman/Greek pint)
Metretes	~39 L (8.6 UK gallons)
2–3 metres (stone jar)	76–120 L (16.7–26.4 UK gallons)



Biblical Dry Measures

Measure	Hebrew/Gr eek Term	Smaller Units	Larger Units	Approx. Modern Equivale nt (Volume)	Notes / Usage	Example Referenc es
Kab	קָב (qab)	1 Kab = 4 Log	6 Kab = 1 Seah	≈ 1.2–1.4 L	Household measure; smallest common dry unit named in Scripture	2 Kings 6:25
Omer	עֹמֶר ('ōmer) / γομόρ (gomor)	1 Omer = 1/10 Ephah	10 Omer = 1 Ephah	≈ 2.2 L	Daily manna portion per person	Exodus 16:16, 18, 22, 32–36
Issaron (Tenth-deal)	יִשָּׂרָע ('issārōn) / δεκάτη (dekátē)	1/10 Ephah	10 = 1 Ephah	≈ 2.2 L	Used for grain/flour offerings (equivalent to an omer)	Exodus 29:40; Leviticus 14:10, 21; Numbers 15:4, 9
Seah	סָהָה (sə'āh) / μέτρον (metron, context dependent)	1 Seah = 6 Kab	3 Seah = 1 Ephah	≈ 7.3 L	Common trade unit; measure of flour or grain	Genesis 18:6; 1 Samuel 25:18; 2 Kings 7:1, 16, 18
Seah (Greek context)	σάτον (saton, Gk.)	1/3 Modios (sometimes used loosely)	3 = 1 Modios	≈ 7–8 L	Appears in the NT parable of the woman mixing flour	Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:21
Ephah	אֶפֶּה ('ēpēh) / οἰφί (oiphi)	1/10 Homer; 3 Seah; 10 Omer	10 Ephah = 1 Homer/Homer (Homer = Hebrew homer, also called a kor)	≈ 22 L	Standard dry measure for grain, barley, flour; used in commerce and offerings	Exodus 16:36; Leviticus 5:11; 6:20; 19:36; Numbers 5:15; Ruth 2:17; 1 Samuel 1:24; 17:17; 2 Kings 4:42; Ezekiel 45:10–



						11; Amos 8:5; Zechariah 5:6–10
Homer (Kor)	הָמֵר (hōmer) / כָּר (kōr)	1 Homer = 10 Ephah	—	≈ 220 L	Large commercial/administrative unit for grain	1 Kings 4:22; 5:11; 2 Chronicles 2:10, 27:5; Ezekiel 45:14
Lethek	לְתַקְ (letek)	1/2 Homer	2 = 1 Homer	≈ 110 L	Rare unit, probably regional or specialised	Hosea 3:2
Modius	μόδιος (modios, Gk.)	1/16 Artaba (in some Egyptian usage)	6 = 1 Satōn (loose contextual grouping)	≈ 8.7–9.2 L	Roman measure used in NT illustration of a lamp under a basket	Matthew 5:15; Mark 4:21; Luke 11:33
Artaba	ἀρτάβη (artabē, Gk.)	3 Modios (approx.)	10 = 1 Homer/Kor (often equated)	≈ 26–40 L	Persian/Median origin; used in large grain transactions	Ezra 7:22 (LXX); 1 Esdras 8:22
Bath (dry correlation)	בָּת (bat) / βάτος (batos)	1/10 Homer	10 = 1 Homer/Kor	≈ 22 L (when correlated with ephah for dry goods)	Primarily liquid, but equated by volume to the ephah when standardising measures	Ezekiel 45:10–11
Homer (Greek Artaba correlation)	κόρος (koros, Gk.)	10 Artaba	—	≈ 260–400 L	Greek rendering of kor (large grain measure)	Luke 16:7 (liquid context but same term family)

Additional Context

Commodity Example	Typical Measure Used	Reference
Manna portion per person	1 Omer	Exodus 16:16–36
Abraham preparing bread for angels	3 Seah of fine flour	Genesis 18:6
Barley bought by Hosea	1 Lethek of barley	Hosea 3:2
Elisha fed 100 men	20 loaves from 1 Ephah of barley	2 Kings 4:42
Lamp hidden under a basket	Modius	Matthew 5:15



Biblical Money Chart

Name (English)	Original Term	Type	Metal / Material	Weight / Value	Modern Equivalent (Approx.)	Where Mentioned / Notes
Shekel	<i>šeqel</i>	Unit of weight & currency	Silver (usually)	1 shekel ≈ 11.3 g silver	£7–£9 (metal value only)	Standard Hebrew currency. Used for temple tax, land purchases, fines.
Half-Shekel	<i>māhašit hašseqel</i>	Coin / tax	Silver	½ shekel	£3.50–£4.50	Annual temple tax per male (Exodus 30:13).
Gerah	<i>gērāh</i>	Sub-unit	Silver	1 gerah = 1/20 shekel	Pence value	Smallest Hebrew unit. 20 gerah = 1 shekel (Exodus 30:13).
Mina (Hebrew)	<i>maneh</i>	Weight / currency	Silver	1 mina ≈ 50 shekels	£350–£450	Used in parables (Luke 19:13). Babylonia n influence.
Talent (Hebrew)	<i>kikkār</i>	Large weight / currency	Silver or Gold	1 talent ≈ 3,000 shekels (≈ 34 kg)	Silver: £24,000+ / Gold: £2,000,000+	Largest monetary unit. Used for national wealth, temple resources.
Daric	<i>darkemôn</i>	Coin	Gold	1 daric ≈ 8.4 g gold	£450–£550	Persian coin. Not Hebrew. Common after exile (Ezra 2:69).
Bekah	<i>beka'</i>	Coin / weight	Silver	1 bekah = ½ shekel	£3.50–£4.50	Used in census offerings (Genesis



						24:22; Exodus 38:26).
Kesitah	<i>qešîtāh</i>	Coin / unit	Possibly silver	Uncertain value	Uncertain	Very ancient currency, pre-Mosaic. Used to buy land (Genesis 33:19; Job 42:11).
Denarius	<i>dēnarion</i>	Roman coin	Silver	1 day's wage for labourer	£80–£120 in today's purchasing power	Most referenced NT coin. Used in parables; Jesus referenced it (Matthew 20:2; Mark 12:15).
Assarion (Farthing)	<i>assarion</i>	Roman coin	Copper/bronze	1/16 denarius	Small value coin	Price of 2 sparrows (Matthew 10:29).
Quadrans (Mite)	<i>kodrantēs</i>	Roman coin	Copper/bronze	1/64 denarius	Very small	Widow's offering = 2 lepta = 1 quadrans (Mark 12:42).
Lepton (Mite)	<i>lepton</i>	Jewish small coin	Copper/bronze	1/128 denarius	Smallest NT coin	2 lepta = 1 quadrans (Mark 12:42; Luke 21:2).
Drachma	<i>drachmē</i>	Greek coin	Silver	≈ 1 denarius	£80–£120 purchasing power	Lost coin parable (Luke 15:8–9).
Didrachma (Double Drachma)	<i>didrachmon</i>	Coin	Silver	2 drachma	£160–£240	The coin used to pay temple tax for 2 people (Matthew 17:24).



Stater (Tetradrachma)	<i>stater</i>	Coin	Silver	4 drachma (≈ 1 shekel Tyrian)	£320–£480	Coin found in the fish's mouth to pay Jesus + Peter's tax (Matthew 17:27).
Lepta (Plural of lepton)	<i>lepta</i>	Coin	Copper/bronze	2 lepta = 1 quadrans	Tiny value	Smallest Jewish coin, widow's offering (Mark 12:42; Luke 21:2).
Prutah	<i>perutah</i>	Jewish coin	Copper/bronze	1/40 shekel	Small coin value	Not named in Bible, but used in the period. Talmudic era currency.
Temple Treasury Gold/Silver	—	Wealth storage	Gold/Silver	Measured in talents	Millions+	Solomon stored 666 gold talents yearly (1 Kings 10:14 ≈ 22,400 kg gold).