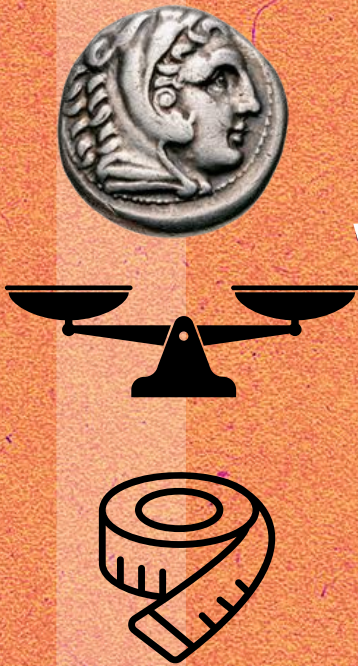


By: Pastor Antonio Junior



COINS, WEIGHTS, MEASURES

and



TIMES.

of the Bible

By: Pastor Antonio Junior

Introduction to Coins in Biblical Times

As trade expanded and economies developed, ancient civilizations began adopting coins as a standardized form of transactions. Before coins, trade relied on bartering systems and later on the use of heavy metal bars, such as gold and silver, which were weighed on scales to determine their value. Over time, empires realized the need to control their economies more efficiently, introducing minted coins with specific weights and values.

In the Old Testament, coin circulation was limited. The directly mentioned coin is the daric, a gold coin used by the Persian Empire, known for its purity and consistent weight. However, Jews continued to use weight-based systems like the shekel, the mina, and the talent, representing units of silver or gold used in commercial transactions and religious offerings.

In the New Testament, coin usage was widespread due to the influence of the Greek and Roman empires. In Israel, there was a wide variety of coins in circulation, including local, Greek, and Roman coins, reflecting the cultural and political diversity of the region. Coins like the Roman denarius, the Greek drachma, the stater, and the as were common in daily life, serving for purchases, taxes, and wages.



Each region had preferences regarding the type of accepted coin. For instance, the Tyrian shekel, known for its high silver purity, was the coin required for temple tax payment. Older coins often held higher value due to their purer metal content compared to newer coins, which could be adulterated with other metals.

With many coins in circulation and the need for conversion between different monetary systems, the foreign exchange market emerged. Money changers, who exchanged coins for a fee, were common in markets and near the temple in Jerusalem. However, many money changers were notorious for charging exorbitant fees and deceiving their customers, leading to criticism from both society and religious leaders. In the New Testament, Jesus drives out the money changers from the temple, condemning their dishonest practices (Matthew 21:12-13).

The monetary system in biblical times reveals not only the functioning of ancient economies but also the cultural, political, and religious impact of coins in daily life. They were more than a medium of exchange — they represented power, influence, and often, greed. These coins carry stories that help us better understand the contexts in which biblical accounts unfolded.



Weight measurements were widely used in trade and transactions involving precious metals like gold and silver, as well as high-value goods. For the Jews, the basic reference weight was the shekel, but there were other units that allowed for smaller or larger measurements as needed. The Bible emphasizes the importance of honesty in the use of scales and weights, condemning fraudulent practices (Proverbs 11:1).



Currency and Weight in the Hebrew Scriptures



Gerah ($\frac{1}{20}$ shekel)
0.57 g / 0.01835 oz t
10 gerahs = 1 bekah

Bekah
5.7 g / 0.1835 oz t
2 bekahs = 1 shekel

Pim
7.8 g / 0.2508 oz t
1 pim = $\frac{2}{3}$ shekel

Shekel
11.4 g / 0.367 oz t
50 shekels = 1 mina

Mina
570 g / 18.35 oz t
60 minas = 1 talent

Talent
34.2 kg / 1,101 oz t

Daric
(Persian, gold)
8.4 g / 0.27 oz t
Ezra 8:27



Shekel weight



Currency and Weight in the Christian Greek Scriptures



Lepton
(Jewish, copper or bronze)

½ quadrans
Luke 21:2



Quadrans
(Roman, copper or bronze)

2 lepta
Matthew 5:26



Assarion
(Roman and provincial, copper or bronze)

4 quadrantes
Matthew 10:29

**1 Day's wages
(12 hour)**



Denarius
(Roman, silver)

64 quadrantes
3.85 g / 0.124 oz t
Matthew 20:10



Drachma
(Greek, silver)

3.4 g / 0.109 oz t
Luke 15:8

2 Day's wages



Didrachma
(Greek, silver)

2 drachmas
6.8 g / 0.218 oz t
Matthew 17:24

2 Day's wages

**Tetradrachma
of Antioch**

**Tetradrachma of Tyre
(Silver shekel of Tyre)**

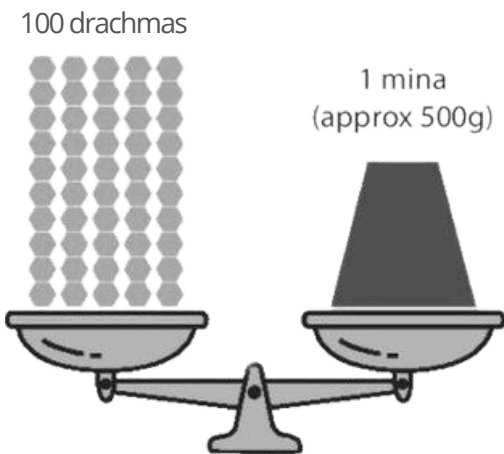


4 Day's wages

Tetradrachma
(Greek, silver; also called
silver stater)

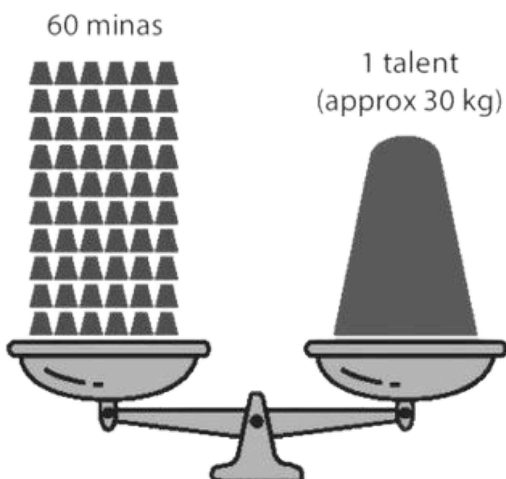
4 drachmas
13.6 g / 0.436 oz t
Matthew 17:27

**about
100 day's wages**



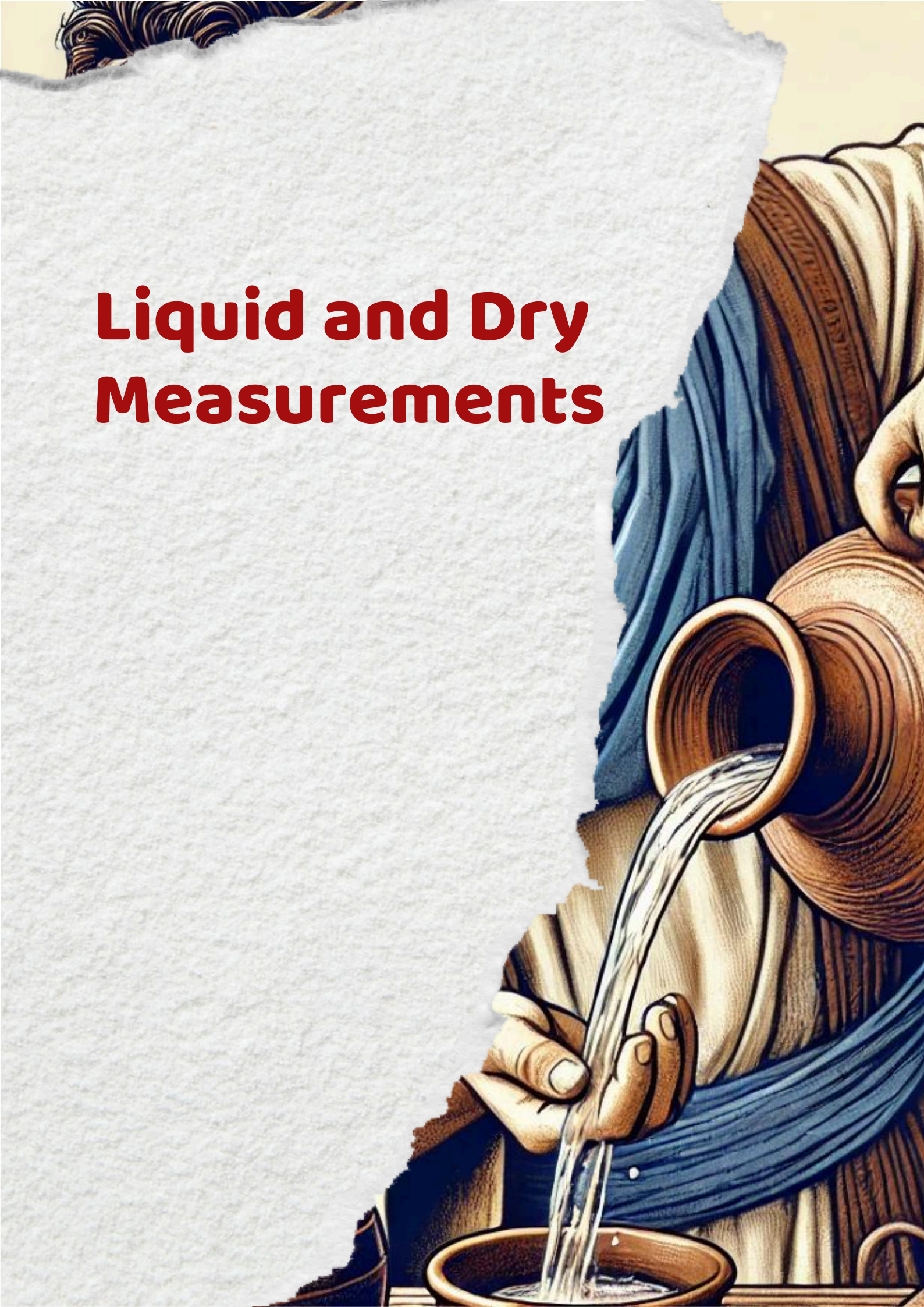
Mina
100 drachmas
340 g / 10.9 oz t
Luke 19:13

**about
20 year's wages**



Talent
60 minas
20.4 kg / 654 oz t
Matthew 18:24
Revelation 16:21

Liquid and Dry Measurements



Liquid and Dry Measurements

Liquid Measures

Cor (10 baths / 60 hins)
220 L / 58.1 gal

Bath (6 hins)
22 L / 5.81 gal

Hin (12 logs)
3.67 L / 7.75 pt

Log ($\frac{1}{12}$ hin)
0.31 L / 0.66 pt

Dry Measures

Homer (1 cor / 10 ephahs)
220 L / 200 dry qt

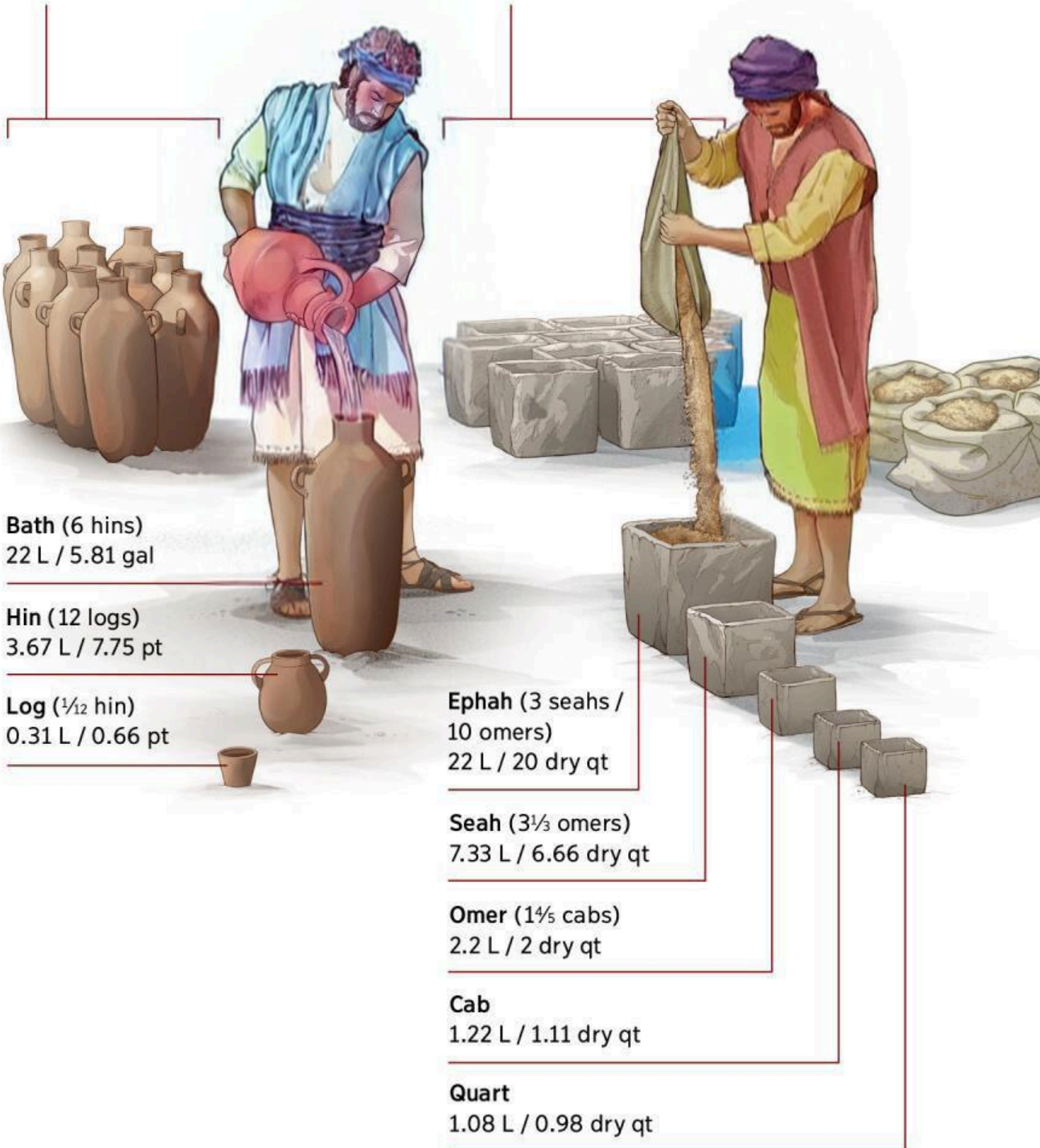
Ephah (3 seahs / 10 omers)
22 L / 20 dry qt

Seah ($3\frac{1}{3}$ omers)
7.33 L / 6.66 dry qt

Omer ($1\frac{1}{5}$ cabs)
2.2 L / 2 dry qt

Cab
1.22 L / 1.11 dry qt

Quart
1.08 L / 0.98 dry qt



Linear Measures.



Linear Measures.

Linear Measures

Long reed (6 long cubits)
3.11 m / 10.2 ft

Reed (6 cubits)
2.67 m / 8.75 ft

Fathom
1.8 m / 6 ft

Long cubit
(7 handbreadths)
51.8 cm / 20.4 in.

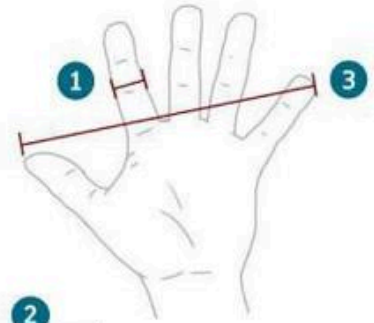
Cubit (2 spans / 6 handbreadths)
44.5 cm / 17.5 in.

Short cubit
38 cm / 15 in.

1 Fingerbreadth
($\frac{1}{4}$ handbreadth)
1.85 cm / 0.73 in.

2 Handbreadth
(4 fingerbreadths)
7.4 cm / 2.9 in.

3 Span
(3 handbreadths)
22.2 cm / 8.75 in.



Cubit

1 Roman stadium
 $\frac{1}{8}$ Roman mile
= 185 m / 606.95 ft



Hours in the time of Jesus



MY PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, we thank You for the wisdom in Your Word, teaching us through the times, measures, and weights of the Bible. Just as every detail held meaning, help us to value the lessons they bring to our faith. Guide us to measure our days wisely, weigh our actions with grace, and walk steadfastly in Your truth.

AMEN!