

TRIBUTE PENNY: NUMISMATIC NOTES;

Coin denominations referenced in various Biblical texts:

Compiled by Walter Holt, MA, with acknowledgements and thanks to Rev. Peter Dunstan;

EDIT: See the N.L.G. Award Winning Article in *Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine*, *The Tribute Penny - The Denarius Debate Continues*, by W. C. Holt, MA, and Rev. P. Dunstan, Volume 18.09 (October, 2015), pp. 62-67.

Talent

Matthew 18:24

ἀρξαμένου δὲ αὐτοῦ συναίρειν προσηνέχθη αὐτῷ εἷς ὀφειλέτης μυρίων **ταλάντων**.

And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

Mina

1 Kings 10:17 (ESV)

And he made 300 shields of beaten gold; three **minas** of gold went into each shield. And the king put them in the House of the Forest of Lebanon.

1 Kings 10:17 (KJV)

And he made three hundred shields of beaten gold; three pound of gold went to one shield: and the king put them in the house of the forest of Lebanon.

Luke 19:13 (ESV)

Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten **minas**, and said to them, 'Engage in business until I come.'

Luke 19:13 (KJV)

And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

Luke 19:16 (ESV)

The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your **mina** has made ten **minas** more.'

Luke 19:16 (KJV)

Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Luke 19:18 (ESV)

And the second came, saying, 'Lord, your **mina** has made five **minas**.'

Luke 19:18 (KJV)

And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

Luke 19:24 (ESV)

And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the **mina** from him, and give it to the one who has the ten **minas**.'

Luke 19:24 (KJV)

And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

Luke 19:25 (ESV)

And they said to him, 'Lord, he has ten **minas**!'

Luke 19:25 (KJV)

(And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

Daric

1 Chronicles 29:7 (NIV)

They gave toward the work on the temple of God five thousand **talents** and ten thousand **darics** of gold, ten thousand **talents** of silver, eighteen thousand **talents** of bronze and a hundred thousand **talents** of iron.

1 Chronicles 29:7 (KJV)

And gave for the service of the house of God of gold five thousand talents and ten thousand drams, and of silver ten thousand talents, and of brass eighteen thousand talents, and one hundred thousand talents of iron.

Ezra 2:69 (NIV)

According to their ability they gave to the treasury for this work 61,000 **darics** of gold, 5,000 **minas** of silver and 100 priestly garments.

Ezra 2:69 (KJV)

They gave after their ability unto the treasure of the work threescore and one thousand drams of gold, and five thousand pound of silver, and one hundred priests' garments.

Ezra 8:27 (NIV)

20 bowls of gold valued at 1,000 **darics**, and two fine articles of polished bronze, as precious as gold.

Ezra 8:27 (KJV)

Also twenty basons of gold, of a thousand drams; and two vessels of fine copper, precious as gold.

Nehemiah 7:70 (NIV)

Some of the heads of the families contributed to the work. The governor gave to the treasury 1,000 **darics** of gold, 50 bowls and 530 garments for priests.

Nehemiah 7:70 (KJV)

And some of the chief of the fathers gave unto the work. The Tirshatha gave to the treasure a thousand drams of gold, fifty basons, five hundred and thirty priests' garments.

Nehemiah 7:71 (NIV)

Some of the heads of the families gave to the treasury for the work 20,000 **darics** of gold and 2,200 **minas** of silver.

Nehemiah 7:71 (KJV)

And some of the chief of the fathers gave to the treasure of the work twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand and two hundred pound of silver.

Nehemiah 7:72 (NIV)

The total given by the rest of the people was 20,000 **darics** of gold, 2,000 **minas** of silver and 67 garments for priests.

Nehemiah 7:72 (KJV)

And that which the rest of the people gave was twenty thousand drams of gold, and two thousand pound of silver, and threescore and seven priests' garments.

Shekel

Mentioned several times in the first four books, Genesis to Numbers, generally referenced as a weight rather than a coin denomination as such.

Stater

Matthew 17:27

ἵνα δὲ μὴ σκανδαλίσωμεν αὐτούς, πορευθεὶς εἰς θάλασσαν βάλῃ ἄγκιστρον καὶ τὸν ἀναβάντα πρῶτον ἰχθὺν ἄρον, καὶ ἀνοίξας τὸ στόμα αὐτοῦ εὐρήσεις **στατήρα**: ἐκεῖνον λαβὼν δὸς αὐτοῖς ἀντὶ ἐμοῦ καὶ σοῦ.
Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

Didrachma

Matthew 17:24

Ἐλθόντων δὲ αὐτῶν εἰς Καφαρναοὺμ προσήλθον οἱ τὰ **δίδραχμα** λαμβάνοντες τῷ Πέτρῳ καὶ εἶπαν· Ὁ διδάσκαλος ὑμῶν οὐ τελεῖ τὰ **δίδραχμα**;
And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

Drachma

Luke 15:8

Ἦ τις γυνὴ **δραχμᾶς** ἔχουσα δέκα, ἐὰν ἀπολέσῃ **δραχμὴν** μίαν, οὐχὶ ἄπτει λύχνον καὶ σαροῖ τὴν οἰκίαν καὶ ζητεῖ ἐπιμελῶς ἕως οὗ εὕρῃ;
Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

Luke 15:9

καὶ εὐροῦσα συγκαλεῖ τὰς φίλας καὶ γείτονας λέγουσα· Συγχαίρητέ μοι ὅτι εὔρον τὴν **δραχμὴν** ἣν ἀπόλεσα.
And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

Lepta

Mark 12:42

καὶ ἔλθοῦσα μία χήρα πτωχὴ ἔβαλεν **λεπτὰ** δύο, ὃ ἐστὶν κοδράντης.
And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

Luke 12:59

λέγω σοι, οὐ μὴ ἐξέλθῃς ἐκεῖθεν ἕως καὶ τὸ ἔσχατον **λεπτὸν** ἀποδῶς.
I tell thee, thou shalt not depart thence, till thou hast paid the very last mite.

Luke 21:2

εἶδεν δὲ τινα χήραν πενιχρὰν βάλλουσαν ἐκεῖ **λεπτὰ** δύο,
And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites.

Denarius

Matthew 18:28

ἐξελθὼν δὲ ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος εὗρεν ἕνα τῶν συνδούλων αὐτοῦ ὃς ὄφειλεν αὐτῷ ἑκατὸν **δηνάρια**, καὶ κρατήσας αὐτὸν ἔπνιγεν λέγων· Απόδος εἴ τι ὀφείλεις.
But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

Denarius (cont.)

Matthew 20:2

συμφωνήσας δὲ μετὰ τῶν ἐργατῶν ἐκ **δηναρίου** τὴν ἡμέραν ἀπέστειλεν αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸν ἀμπελῶνα αὐτοῦ.
And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard.

Matthew 20:9

καὶ ἐλθόντες οἱ περὶ τὴν ἑνδεκάτην ὥραν ἔλαβον ἀνὰ **δηνάριον**.
And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:10

καὶ ἐλθόντες οἱ πρῶτοι ἐνόμισαν ὅτι πλεῖον λήμψονται· καὶ ἔλαβον τὸ ἀνὰ **δηνάριον** καὶ αὐτοί.
But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.

Matthew 20:13

ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς ἐνὶ αὐτῶν εἶπεν· Ἐταῖρε, οὐκ ἀδικῶ σε· οὐχὶ **δηναρίου** συνεφώνησάς μοι;
But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?

Matthew 22:19

ἐπιδείξατέ μοι τὸ νόμισμα τοῦ κήνσου. οἱ δὲ προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ **δηνάριον**.
Shew me the tribute money. And they brought unto him a penny.

Mark 6:37

ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Δότε αὐτοῖς ὑμεῖς φαγεῖν· καὶ λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· Ἀπελθόντες ἀγοράσωμεν **δηναρίων** διακοσίων ἄρτους καὶ δώσωμεν αὐτοῖς φαγεῖν;
He answered and said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they say unto him, Shall we go and buy two hundred pennyworth of bread, and give them to eat?

Mark 12:15

ὁ δὲ εἰδὼς αὐτῶν τὴν ὑπόκρισιν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Τί με πειράζετε; φέρετέ μοι **δηνάριον** ἵνα ἴδω.
Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

Mark 14:5

ἠδύνατο γὰρ τοῦτο τὸ μύρον πρᾶθῆναι ἐπάνω **δηναρίων** τριακοσίων καὶ δοθῆναι τοῖς πτωχοῖς· καὶ ἐνεβριμῶντο αὐτῇ.
For it might have been sold for more than three hundred pence, and have been given to the poor. And they murmured against her.

Luke 7:41

δύο χρεοφειλέται ἦσαν δανιστῆτινι· ὁ εἷς ὄφειλεν **δηνάρια** πεντακόσια, ὁ δὲ ἕτερος πενήκοντα.
There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

Luke 10:35

καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν αὔριον ἐκβαλὼν δύο **δηνάρια** ἔδωκεν τῷ πανδοχεῖ καὶ εἶπεν· Ἐπιμελήθητι αὐτοῦ, καὶ ὅ τι ἂν προσδαπανήσης ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ἐπανερχεσθαί με ἀποδώσω σοι.
And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee.

Denarius (cont.)

Luke 20:24

Δείξατέ μοι **δηνάριον**: τίνος ἔχει εἰκόνα καὶ ἐπιγραφὴν; ἀποκριθέντες δὲ εἶπαν· Καίσαρος.
Shew me a penny. Whose image and superscription hath it? They answered and said, Caesar's.

John 6:7

ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ Φίλιππος· Διακοσίων **δηναρίων** ἄρτοι οὐκ ἀρκοῦσιν αὐτοῖς ἵνα ἕκαστος βραχύ τι λάβῃ.
Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little.

John 12:5

Διὰ τί τοῦτο τὸ μύρον οὐκ ἐπράθη τριακοσίων **δηναρίων** καὶ ἐδόθη πτωχοῖς;
Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor?

Revelation 6:6

καὶ ἤκουσα ὡς φωνὴν ἐν μέσῳ τῶν τεσσάρων ζώων λέγουσαν· Χοῖνιξ σίτου **δηναρίου**, καὶ τρεῖς χοίνικες κριθῶν **δηναρίου**· καὶ τὸ ἔλαιον καὶ τὸν οἶνον μὴ ἀδικήσης.
And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.

Assarion

Luke 12:6

οὐχὶ πέντε στρουθία πωλοῦνται **ἄσσαρίων** δύο; καὶ ἐν ἑξ αὐτῶν οὐκ ἔστιν ἐπιλελησμένον ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ.
Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God?

Matthew 10:29

οὐχὶ δύο στρουθία **ἄσσαρίου** πωλεῖται; καὶ ἐν ἑξ αὐτῶν οὐ πεσεῖται ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ἄνευ τοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν.
Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

Quadrans

Matthew 5:26

ἀμὴν λέγω σοι, οὐ μὴ ἐξέλθῃς ἐκεῖθεν ἕως ἂν ἀποδῶς τὸν ἔσχατον **κοδράντην**.
Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

Mark 12:42

καὶ ἔλθοῦσα μία χήρα πτωχὴ ἔβαλεν λεπτὰ δύο, ὅ ἐστιν **κοδράντης**.
And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing.

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Source Notes:

Greek text from SBL Greek New Testament (SBLGNT);

English text from King James Version (KJV), New International Version (NIV), and English Standard Version (ESV).

Source material and translations via: <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

From the Septuagint Bible

<http://www.ecmarsh.com/lxx/index.htm>

Translations only (ie: no Greek text)

Mina

1. III Maccabees

... wives; and promised that if they proved conquerors, she would give them two **minae** of gold apiece. 5 It thus fell out that their enemies were defeated ...

Talent

1. I Esdras

... in Jerusalem. 36 And he set a tax upon the land of an hundred **talents** of silver and one **talent** of gold. 37 The king of Egypt also ...

2. Chronicles II

... he gilded it with pure gold for cherubs, to the amount of six hundred **talents**. 9 And the weight of the nails, even the weight of each ...

3. II Maccabees

... as that wicked Simon had misinformed: the sum whereof in all was four hundred **talents** of silver, and two hundred of gold: 12 And that it was ...

4. Kings IV

... the king of Israel. And he went, and took in his hand ten **talents** of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of ...

5. Chronicles I

... of David were ashamed, and Anan and the children of Ammon sent a thousand **talents** of silver to hire for themselves chariots and horsemen out of Syria of Mesopotamia ...

6. Exodus

... funnel and its snuff-dishes of pure gold. 39 All these articles shall be a **talent** of pure gold. 40 See, thou shalt make them according to the ...

7. Kings III

... Boundary until this day. 14 And Chiram brought to Solomon a hundred and twenty **talents** of gold, 25 26 even that for which king Solomon built a ship ...

8. I Maccabees

... three governments, with the country of Samaria; and he promised him three hundred **talents**. 29 So the king consented, and wrote letters unto Jonathan of all ...

9. Esther

... , and a small cup of carbuncle set out of the value of thirty thousand **talents**, abundant and sweet wine, which the king himself drank. 8 And ...

10. Ezra

... you, it shall be done speedily, 22 to the amount of a hundred **talents** of silver, and a hundred measures of wheat, and a hundred baths ...

11. Tobit

... with Gabael, the brother of Gabrias, at Rages a city of Media ten **talents** of silver. 15 Now when Enemessar was dead, Sennacherib his son reigned ...

Talent (cont.)

12. IV Maccabees

... would give him this authority, to pay yearly three thousand six hundred and sixty **talents**. 18 And he committed to him the high priesthood and rulership over the ...

13. Zacharias

... said, This is their iniquity in all the earth. 7 And behold a **talent** of lead lifted up: and behold a woman sat in the midst of ...

14. Kings II

... Molchom their king from off his head, and the weight of it was a **talent** of gold, with precious stones, and it was upon the head of ...

Shekel

1. Numbers

... of the first-born of the sons of Israel; 47 thou shalt even take five **shekels** a head; thou shalt take them according to the holy **didrachm**, twenty ...

2. Exodus

... 23 Do thou also take sweet herbs, the flower of choice myrrh five hundred **shekels**, and the half of this two hundred and fifty **shekels** of sweet-smelling cinnamon ...

3. Kings IV

... at this time, to-morrow a measure of fine flour shall be sold for a **shekel**, and two measures of barley for a **shekel**, in the gates of ...

4. Jezekiel

... on thy side. 10 And thou shalt eat thy food by weight, twenty **shekels** a day: from time to time shalt thou eat them. 11 And ...

5. Kings II

... when he polled it, he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred **shekels** according to the royal **shekel**. 27 And there were born to Abessalom three ...

6. Chronicles II

... 9 And the weight of the nails, even the weight of each was fifty **shekels** of gold: and he gilded the upper chamber with gold. 10 And ...

7. Kings I

... said, Behold, there is found in my hand a fourth part of a **shekel** of silver; and thou shalt give it to the man of God, ...

8. Kings III

... land. 16 And Solomon made three hundred spears of beaten gold: three hundred **shekels** of gold were upon one spear. 17 And three hundred shields of beaten ...

9. Leviticus

... for his transgression, a ram of the flock without blemish, valued according to **shekels** of silver according to the **shekel** of the sanctuary, for his transgression wherein ...

10. I Maccabees

... the necessary expenses of the sanctuary. 40 Moreover I give every year fifteen thousand **shekels** of silver out of the king's accounts from the places appertaining. 41 And ...

Talent (cont.)

11. Esaias

... day, for every place where there shall be a thousand vines at a thousand **shekels**, they shall become barren land and thorns. 24 Men shall enter thither ...

12. Chronicles I

... cost to myself. 25 And David gave to Orna for his place six hundred **shekels** of gold by weight. 26 And David built there an altar to the ...

13. Jeremias

... field of Anameel the son of my father's brother, and I weighed him seventeen **shekels** of silver. 10 And I wrote it in a book, and sealed ...

14. Deuteronomy

... that man, and shall chastise him, 19 and shall fine him a hundred **shekels**, and shall give them to the father of the damsel, because he ...

Drachm

1. Exodus

... shall pay to their master thirty silver **didrachms**, and the bull shall be stoned ... seven hundred and seventy-five **shekels**, one **drachm** apiece, even the half **shekel**, ...

2. Genesis

... the land is worth four hundred silver **didrachms**, but what can this be between ... took golden ear-rings, each of a **drachm** weight, and he put two bracelets ...

3. Leviticus

... from twenty years old to sixty years old shall be his valuation shall be fifty **didrachms** of silver by the standard of the sanctuary. 4 And the valuation of ...

4. II Maccabees

... Jason sent special messengers from Jerusalem, who were Antiochians, to carry three hundred **drachms** of silver to the sacrifice of Hercules, which even the bearers thereof thought ...

5. Joshua

... done: 21 I saw in the spoil an embroidered mantle, and two hundred **didrachms** of silver, and one golden wedge of fifty **didrachms**, and I desired ...

6. Nehemiah

... before me oppressed them, they even took of them their last money, forty **didrachms** for bread and wine; and the very outcasts of them exercised authority over ...

7. Numbers

... even take five **shekels** a head; thou shalt take them according to the holy **didrachm**, twenty **oboli** to the **shekel**. 48 And thou shalt give the money ...

8. III Maccabees

... besides receiving the property of the person charged, shall be presented with two thousand **drachmae** from the royal treasury, shall be made free, and shall be crowned ...

9. Tobit

... 14 But tell me, what wages shall I give thee? wilt thou a **drachm** a day, and things necessary, as to mine own son? 15 ...

10. Ezra

... hundred **talents** of gold; 27 and twenty golden bowls, weighing about a thousand **drachms**, and superior vessels of fine shining brass, precious as gold. 28 ...

Drachm (cont.)

11. Job

... had brought upon him: and each one gave him a lamb, and four **drachms'** weight of gold, even of unstamped gold. 12 And the Lord ...

12. Deuteronomy

... man who lay with her shall give to the father of the damsel fifty silver **didrachms**, and she shall be his wife, because he has humbled her; ...

13. Genesis

... the camels ceased drinking, that the man took golden ear-rings, each of a **drachm** weight, and he put two bracelets on her hands, their weight was ...

14. Exodus

... congregation a hundred **talents**, and a thousand seven hundred and seventy-five **shekels**, one **drachm** apiece, even the **half shekel**, according to the holy **shekel**. 3 ...

Obol

1. Numbers

... **shekels** a head; thou shalt take them according to the holy **didrachm**, twenty **oboli** to the **shekel**. 48 And thou shalt give the money to Aaron and ...

2. Jezeziel

... be in fair proportion to the gomor. 12 And the weights shall be twenty **oboli**, your pound shall be five **shekels**, fifteen **shekels** and fifty **shekels**. ...

3. Leviticus

... 25 And every valuation shall be by holy weights: the **didrachm** shall be twenty **oboli**. 26 And every first-born which shall be produced among thy cattle shall be ...

4. Exodus

... , half a **didrachm** which is according to the **didrachm** of the sanctuary: twenty **oboli** go to the **didrachm**, but the half of the **didrachm** is the offering ...

Coin

1. I Maccabees

... , and whatsoever gifts besides they granted. 6 I give thee leave also to **coin** money for thy country with thine own stamp. 7 And as concerning Jerusalem ...

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EDIT: See the N.L.G. Award Winning Article in *Australasian Coin and Banknote Magazine, The Tribute Penny - The Denarius Debate Continues*, by W. C. Holt, MA, and Rev. P. Dunstan, Volume 18.09 (October, 2015), pp. 62-67.