

Biblical Weights and Measures

Biblical	American	Metric
Length		
cubit	18 inches	0.5 meter
span	9 inches	23 centimeters
handbreadth	3 inches	8 centimeters
Weight		
talent (3000 shekels)	1200 ounces (75 pounds)	34 kilograms
mina (50 shekels)	20 ounces	0.6 kilogram
shekel (2 bekas)	2/5 ounce	11.5 grams
pim (2/3 shekel)	1/3 ounce	7.6 grams
beka (1/2 shekel)	1/5 ounce	5.5 grams
Gerah (1/20 shekel)	1/50 ounce	0.6 gram
Dry Capacity		
cor (homer) (10 ephahs)	6 bushels (210 quarts)	220 liters
lethek (5 ephahs)	3 bushels (105 quarts)	110 liters
ephah (10 omers)	3/5 bushel (21 quarts)	22 liters
seah (1/3 ephah)	7 quarts	7.3 liters
omer (1/10 ephah)	2 quarts	2 liters
cab (1/18 ephah)	1 quart	1 liter
Liquid Capacity		
bath (1 ephah)	6 or 10 gallons	22 or 40 liters
hin (1/6 bath)	4 quarts (1 gallon)	4 liters
log (1/72 bath)	1/3 quart (.08 gallon)	0.3 liter

Note: These are rough approximations taken from ancient sources. Rabbinical definitions sometimes vary from other sources, as in the liquid capacity of a bath. In 1 Kings 7:23, the basin could contain either 12,000 gallons (rabbinical) or 20,000 gallons (other sources). Quarts and liters are not equal by today's standards, but neither one is exactly equal to the ancient measure; so the relative value between them today is irrelevant.