Dry Capacity

cab	$2\frac{3}{4}$ pt	1.5 *l*	2 Kings 6:25
omer	$\frac{1}{10}$ ephah	5 pt.	2.8 *l*	Ex. 16:36
ephah	10 omers	$3\frac{1}{4}$ pk.	28.2 *l*	Ex. 16:36
homer	10 ephahs	8 bu.	282 *l*	Ezek. 45:11–14

By New Testament times, Roman units of measure were the widespread standard. The New Testament does not refer to as many measures, because the temple and temple worship were fulfilled in Christ.

Roman Measures (Used in the New Testament)

Type of measure	*Name of measure*	*English equivalent*	*Metric equivalent*	*Scripture reference*
weight	pound	$\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	340 g	John 19:39
dry capacity	bushel	$\frac{1}{4}$ bu.	9 *l*	Matt. 5:15
dry capacity	measure*	13 bu.	453 *l*	Luke 16:7
linear	furlong	606 ft.	185 m	Luke 24:13
linear	mile	4,848 ft.	1,478 m	Matt. 5:41

*Several different Greek units of capacity are translated "measure" in the New Testament.

To change a Bible measure to English or metric units, multiply the number of units in the Bible measure by the desired equivalent.

Example A

In preparing materials for the temple, David gathered 100,000 talents of iron (1 Chronicles 29:7). How many tons of iron was that? How many metric tons?

100,000 × 75 lb. = 7,500,000 lb.
7,500,000 ÷ 2,000 = 3,750 tons

100,000 × 34 kg = 3,400,000 kg
3,400,000 ÷ 1,000 = 3,400 MT

Example B

Og, king of Bashan, had a bedstead of iron that measured 9 cubits by 4 cubits. What were the dimensions of the bedstead in feet? in meters?

$9 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. = $13\frac{1}{2}$ ft. long
$4 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ft. = 6 ft. wide

9 × 46 cm = 414 cm = 4.14 m long
4 × 46 cm = 184 cm = 1.84 m wide

CLASS PRACTICE

Solve these reading problems.

a. David gave 3,000 talents of gold for the building of the temple (1 Chronicles 29:4). How many pounds of gold was that? How many kilograms? 225,000 lb.; 102,000 kg

b. In 1 Chronicles 11:23, Benaiah slew an Egyptian who was 5 cubits tall. What was his height in feet? in meters? $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet; 2.3 meters