

The Utility of the Gold Antion

Computing Half Measures	With the Gold Antion Value = 1.5	Without the Gold Antion*	With the Silver Shiblon Value = .5
1.5	1 weight	impossible	2 weights 1 + .5
2.5	2 weights 1 + 1.5	impossible	2 weights 2 + .5
3.5	2 weights 2 + 1.5	impossible	3 weights 2 + 1 + .5
4.5	3 weights 1 + 2 + 1.5	impossible	3 weights 2 + 2 + .5
5.5	2 weights 4 + 1.5	impossible	3 weights 4 + 1 + .5
6.5	3 weights 4 + 1 + 1.5	impossible	3 weights 4 + 2 + .5

*If payment was to be in gold only

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Key Scripture Alma 11:19

Explanation Under King Mosiah's monetary system, the gold antion was worth one and a half measures of silver or other commodities (see Alma 11:15, 19). It functioned as a useful commercial unit since it allowed more measures of grain or other items to be purchased with fewer units of precious metal, as this chart shows. Using as few monetary units as possible in the marketplace was most likely an advantage.

Source John W. Welch, "Weighing and Measuring in the Worlds of the Book of Mormon," *Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 8/2 (1999), 36–46.