

What is a scrip?

BAG Most bags in the Bible are of three kinds: a pouch or purse (usually Heb. *kîs*; Gk. *ballántion*), a traveler's bag (**Gk. *péra***), or a large sack (Heb. *'amtahat*). **Heb. *kaq* usually refers to the material, i.e., sackcloth.** People in both the OT and NT might carry money in a purse (Prov. 1:14; Luke 10:4) and grain in sacks (Gen. 42–44). God warns traders in the OT not to have false weights in their bags or pouches (Deut. 25:13; Prov. 16:11; Mic. 6:11). In his fight with the giant, the young David puts five slingstones in his shepherd's bag (Heb. *kěîl*; 1 Sam. 17:40). When Jesus sends out the Twelve (Matt. 10:10 = Mark 6:8; Luke 9:3) and the Seventy (-two) (Luke 10:4), he tells them not to take a bag along. Later he tells them to take one (Luke 22:35–36). Jesus uses the money bag or purse (*ballántion*) figuratively when he urges the “little flock” to give to the poor and thereby acquire “purses that will never wear out” (Luke 12:32–34).

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BAG Flexible container that may be closed for holding, storing, or carrying something. 1. Large bags in which large amounts of money could be carried (2 Kings 5:23; Isa. 3:22; KJV, “crisping pins”). 2. Small bag (purse) used to carry a merchant's weights (Deut. 25:13; Prov. 16:11; Mic. 6:11) or smaller sums of money (Prov. 1:14; Isa. 46:6). This may be the same as the purse mentioned in the NT (Luke 10:4; 12:33; 22:35–36). 3. Cloth tied up in a bundle is translated as “bag” (Job 14:17; Prov. 7:20; Hag. 1:6) or “bundle” (Gen. 42:35; 1 Sam. 25:29; Song 1:13). The size of the bundle would depend on its use. This type of bag was used to hold money (Gen. 42:35; Prov. 7:20; Hag. 1:6; see 2 Kings 12:10 where the verb form, “to tie up in bags,” is used) or “something loose” such as myrrh (Song 1:13). This term for bag is used figuratively to speak of one's sins being bundled up (and perhaps sealed, “bag of transgressions,” Job 14:17) and one's life being bundled up and protected by God (“bundle of the living,” 1 Sam. 25:29). 4. The shepherd's bag (KJV “scrip” or “vessel”). Used by shepherds and travelers to carry one or more days' supplies, it was made of animal skins and slung across the shoulder. Joseph's brothers carried grain in such a bag (Gen. 42:25). Saul's bag was empty of bread when he went to meet Samuel (1 Sam. 9:7), and David collected stones in his shepherd's bag when confronting Goliath (1 Sam. 17:40, 49). An Israelite traveler whose bag of provisions was empty could eat from a fellow Israelite's vineyard but was not permitted to fill his bag for the rest of the journey (Deut. 23:24). Jesus commanded His disciples not to carry a bag when He sent them out to preach (Matt. 10:10; Mark 6:8; Luke 9:3; 10:4). They were to be totally dependent on God and the hospitality and support of God's people (cp. Num. 18:31; 1 Cor. 9:3–14). The disciples learned from this experience that they would be cared for, but because of the critical nature of what they were about to face, Jesus later instructed His disciples to begin carrying a purse, bag, and—very curiously—a sword (Luke 22:35–36). The Hebrew word for shepherd's bag is also translated as “carriage.” See Carriage. 5. Large sack used to carry grain (Gen. 42:25, 27, 35; Josh. 9:4; Lev. 11:32). The same Hebrew word is translated as sackcloth worn during times of mourning or humiliation. See Sackcloth. 6. KJV translates *glossokomon* as “bag” in John 12:6; 13:29. The *glossokomon* was actually a money box.

Logan, P. (2003). Bag. In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p. 161). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.