

Deuteronomy 12:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks:

Analysis

The worship elements to bring: 'thither ye shall bring your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices, and your tithes, and heave offerings of your hand, and your vows, and your freewill offerings, and the firstlings of your herds and of your flocks.' This comprehensive list covers all sacrificial and tributary offerings prescribed in Leviticus. The centralization means all worship expressions—mandatory and voluntary, animal and agricultural—must occur at the chosen sanctuary. This created national gatherings for feast times, fostering unity and covenant identity. The variety of offerings reflects holistic stewardship: produce, livestock, wealth all belong to God and are offered back in worship.

Historical Context

Leviticus 1-7 prescribes these various offerings. The three annual pilgrimage feasts (Passover/Unleavened Bread, Pentecost/Weeks, Tabernacles—Deuteronomy 16:16) required males to appear at the sanctuary, bringing prescribed offerings. This created economic and social challenges for distant tribes but reinforced national cohesion. After the kingdom divided, Jeroboam established rival sanctuaries at Dan and Bethel (1 Kings 12:26-33) specifically to prevent northern tribes from worshiping in Jerusalem, recognizing worship centralization's unifying power.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does bringing all worship expressions to one place illustrate the totality of consecration to God?
2. What does the variety of offerings (burnt, peace, vows, freewill, etc.) teach about appropriate worship responses to God?
3. How can Christians practice worship centralization (gathering for corporate worship) while maintaining daily personal devotion?

Interlinear Text

וְהֵבֵאתָם And thither ye shall bring H935	שֶׁמֶה H8033	עֲלֹתֵיכֶם your burnt offerings H5930	וְזִבְחֵיכֶם and your sacrifices H2077	וְאֵת H853
וְאֵת and your tithes H4643	וְאֵת H853	וְתִרְומַת and heave offerings H8641	יָדְךָ of your hand H3027	וְנִדְוֵיכֶם and your vows H5088
וְנִדְבֵי תִיכֶם and your freewill offerings H5071	וּבְכֹרֹת and the firstlings H1062	בְּקִרְבָּנֶיךָ of your herds H1241	וְצֹאֲנֵיכֶם and of your flocks H6629	