

Ezekiel 46:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the burnt offering that the prince shall offer unto the LORD in the sabbath day shall be six lambs without blemish, and a ram without blemish.

Analysis

The burnt offering that the prince shall offer unto the LORD in the sabbath day shall be six lambs without blemish, and a ram without blemish—The Sabbath olah (עֹלָה, "burnt offering," wholly consumed on the altar) requires seven animals: six kevasim (כִּבְשִׁים, "lambs") plus one ayil (אֵיל, "ram"), all temimim (תְּמִימִם, "without blemish/perfect"). This exceeds the Mosaic requirement of two lambs for Sabbath (Numbers 28:9), signaling intensified worship in the restored temple.

The number seven (completion/perfection) on the seventh day (Sabbath) creates symbolic doubling—perfect offering on the day of rest. The ram, larger and more valuable than lambs, represents the prince himself leading in costly devotion. The emphatic "without blemish" recalls God's holiness demanding unblemished sacrifice (Leviticus 22:20-22), pointing to Christ the Lamb of God "without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19). That the prince personally ensures this offering demonstrates leadership-by-example in worship, not delegation.

Historical Context

Written during exile when temple sacrifices had ceased, Ezekiel's vision anticipated restoration with enhanced worship. The increased Sabbath offering (seven animals versus two under Moses) reflects the prophets' expectation that the return from exile would surpass the original exodus in glory (Isaiah 43:18-19). This

escalation never materialized in the Second Temple period, leading many interpreters to see millennial fulfillment.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. Why does the restored temple vision intensify Sabbath worship beyond Mosaic law?
2. How does the prince's personal provision of unblemished sacrifices model leadership in costly devotion rather than mere administration?

Interlinear Text

וְהָעֹלָה הַזֶּה	אֲשֶׁר	יִקְרֶה בְּ	הַנָּשִׂא יֵא	לִיהוָה הַ	בְּיֹם
And the burnt offering	H834	shall offer	that the prince	unto the LORD	day
H5930		H7126	H5387	H3068	H3117
הַשַּׁבָּת	שֵׁשׁ הַ	כֶּבֶשֶׂיִם	תְּמִיִּם:	וְאֵל	תְּמִיִּם:
in the sabbath	shall be six	lambs	without blemish	and a ram	without blemish
H7676	H8337	H3532	H8549	H352	H8549

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 45:17 (Sacrifice): And it shall be the prince's part to give burnt offerings, and meat offerings, and drink offerings, in the feasts, and in the new moons, and in the sabbaths, in all solemnities of the house of Israel: he shall prepare the sin offering, and the meat offering, and the burnt offering, and the peace offerings, to make reconciliation for the house of Israel.

