

Ezekiel 46:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the meat offering shall be an ephah for a ram, and the meat offering for the lambs as he shall be able to give, and an hin of oil to an ephah.

Analysis

And the meat offering shall be an ephah for a ram, and the meat offering for the lambs as he shall be able to give—The minchah (מִנְחָה, "grain offering") accompanying the ram is fixed (one ephah, ~22 liters of fine flour), but the grain for the six lambs is discretionary: **as he shall be able to give** (mattat yado, מַתַּת יָדוֹ, literally "gift of his hand"). This phrase introduces gracious flexibility—the prince gives according to ability, not rigid quota.

The contrast between required (ram's ephah) and voluntary (lambs' grain) balances structure with freedom in worship. Fixed elements ensure adequacy; voluntary elements allow generosity beyond minimum. **And an hin of oil to an ephah**—oil accompanies grain at a ratio of 1 hin (~3.6 liters) per ephah, maintaining proportion. This tripartite offering (animal/grain/oil) symbolizes complete consecration: life (blood), labor (grain), and Spirit (oil). Christ embodies this completeness—His blood, His perfect human obedience, and His Spirit-anointed ministry form the whole sacrifice.

Historical Context

In ancient Israel, wealth varied by season, geography, and household size. By allowing the prince discretion in the lambs' grain offering while requiring a baseline, Ezekiel's system prevents both legalism (everything prescribed) and chaos (nothing prescribed). This balance between law and liberty prefigures New

Testament teaching on giving: "as he shall be able" echoes Paul's "as he purposeth in his heart" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the combination of required and discretionary offerings balance God's authority with human freedom in worship?
2. What does 'as he shall be able to give' teach about God's evaluation of our worship based on capacity rather than absolute amount?

Interlinear Text

מִנְחָה	לְאִיפָה:	לֹא יֵל	וְלִכְבֹּשׁ יִם	
And the meat offering	shall be an ephah	for a ram	for the lambs	
H4503	H374	H352	H3532	
מִנְחָה	מִתַּת	יָדוֹ	וְשֶׁן	הֵי יֵן
And the meat offering	to give	as he shall be able	of oil	and an hin
H4503	H4991	H3027	H8081	H1969
לְאִיפָה:				
shall be an ephah				
H374				

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 45:24 (Sacrifice): And he shall prepare a meat offering of an ephah for a bullock, and an ephah for a ram, and an hin of oil for an ephah.

Ezekiel 46:7 (Sacrifice): And he shall prepare a meat offering, an ephah for a bullock, and an ephah for a ram, and for the lambs according as his hand shall attain unto, and an hin of oil to an ephah.

Deuteronomy 16:17 (Parallel theme): Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD thy God which he hath given thee.

Numbers 28:12 (Sacrifice): And three tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one bullock; and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one ram;

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