

Ezra 3:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

Analysis

Offering 'the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD' restored the complete Mosaic calendar. This demonstrates comprehensive covenant renewal, not selective observance. The phrase 'of every one that willingly offered' indicates voluntary additional sacrifices beyond required offerings. This distinction between mandatory and freewill offerings teaches both duty (what we owe God) and devotion (what we freely give from gratitude).

Historical Context

The new moons and set feasts constituted Israel's sacred calendar, structuring time around God's redemptive acts. These observances lapsed during exile when temple and priesthood weren't accessible. Their restoration normalized covenant life according to divine prescription. Archaeological evidence shows ancient calendars regulated agricultural, economic, and religious cycles, integrating all life under divine ordering.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does distinguishing between required and freewill offerings teach about duty and devotion in Christian life?
2. How does structuring time around sacred calendar challenge modern secular time consciousness focused on efficiency and productivity?

Interlinear Text

וַיַּעֲשׂוּ	אֶת	חַג	הַסֹּכֹת	כַּכֵּת וּב	וְעֹלֹת
They kept	H853	also the feast	of tabernacles	as it is written	burnt offerings
H6213		H2282	H5521	H3789	H5930
בְּיוֹמוֹ:	בְּיוֹמוֹ:	בְּמִסְפָּר	כַּמִּשְׁפָּט		
and offered the daily	and offered the daily	by number	according to the custom		
H3117	H3117	H4557	H4941		
דְּבַר	בְּיוֹמוֹ:	בְּיוֹמוֹ:			
as the duty	and offered the daily	and offered the daily			
H1697	H3117	H3117			

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 23:16 (Parallel theme): And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field: and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.