

Ezra 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And offered at the dedication of this house of God an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs; and for a sin offering for all Israel, twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel.

Analysis

The dedication offerings—"an hundred bullocks, two hundred rams, four hundred lambs"—were substantial but modest compared to Solomon's dedication (1 Kings 8:63: 22,000 oxen, 120,000 sheep). The sin offering of 'twelve he goats, according to the number of the tribes of Israel' maintained all-Israel identity despite only Judah and Benjamin's numerical dominance. This demonstrated covenant continuity—all twelve tribes remained God's people regardless of present circumstances. The inclusive vision maintained hope for future comprehensive restoration.

Historical Context

The reduced scale of offerings reflected the returned community's modest circumstances—they were a small, poor population in a devastated land. Yet they offered substantially, demonstrating generosity proportionate to means. The twelve goats for all-Israel sin offering maintained theological vision that the northern tribes, though scattered since 722 BC, remained part of covenant people. This hope influenced later expectations about Messiah gathering all dispersed Israelites (Matthew 19:28).

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the modest dedication compared to Solomon's reflect realistic assessment of circumstances without abandoning faith in God's presence?
2. What does the twelve-tribe sin offering teach about maintaining comprehensive covenant vision despite incomplete present reality?

Interlinear Text

מֵא	ה	תּוֹר	יְנִזְבֵּחַ	דְּבָנָה	אֶלְבָה	אֶלְבָה	בֵּית	לְחִנּוּכָת	וּפְקַרְבָּנִים	וְיִמְלָא
And offered	at the dedication	house	of God	of this	bullocks	an hundred				
H7127	H2597	H1005	H426	H1836	H8450	H3969				
עֵזֶר	וְצָפִינִים	מֵא	ה	אַרְבָּעָה	אַרְבָּעָה	מֵא	ה	אַרְבָּעָה	עֵזֶר	וְצָפִינִים
rams	an hundred	lambs	four	an hundred	he	goats				
H1798	H3969	H563	H703	H3969	H6841	H5796				
עַשְׂרֵה	וְשָׁבָטִים	כָּל	עַל	וְשָׁבָטִים	רְתִיּוֹן	עַשְׂרֵה				
and for a sin offering	for	all	Israel	twelve						
H2402	H5922	H3606	H3479	H8648						
וְשָׁבָטִים	וְשָׁבָטִים	וְשָׁבָטִים	וְשָׁבָטִים	וְשָׁבָטִים						
according to the number	of the tribes	Israel								
H4510	H7625	H3479								

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 8:35 (Sin): Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity, offered burnt offerings unto the God of Israel, twelve bullocks for all Israel, ninety and six rams, seventy and seven lambs, twelve he goats for a sin offering: all this was a burnt offering unto the LORD.

2 Chronicles 7:5 (Sacrifice): And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org