

Ezra 8:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Also the children of those that had been carried away, which were come out of the captivity—בְּנֵי-הַגּוֹלָה הַבָּאִים מִמִּשְׁבֵּן—(benei-hagolah habbaim mehasshevi, sons of the exile, those coming from the captivity). The גּוֹלָה (exile/deportation) and שְׁבֵן (captivity) are parallel terms for Babylonian exile. Calling them בְּנֵי (sons/children) emphasizes generational identity—many in Ezra's caravan were born in Babylon, not original deportees. Their self-identification as 'children of the exile' shows covenant consciousness: despite foreign birth, they understood themselves as displaced Israelites whose true home was Judah.

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—the עַלּוֹת (olot, burnt offerings) were totally consumed on the altar (Leviticus 1), symbolizing complete dedication. The numbers are theologically significant: שְׁנִים עָשָׂר פָּרִים (sheneim asar parim, twelve bulls) represent the twelve tribes (all Israel united), 96 rams = שְׁנִים עָשָׂר (sheneim asar), 77 lambs = שְׁבָעִים וּשְׁבָעָה קְבָשִׁים (shiv'im v'shiv'ah kevasim, 7×11), 12 male goats for אַפְרִים-עַזְזִים (aprim-azzim, chatat, sin offering). The multiples of twelve emphasize national unity—'all Israel' includes the northern tribes lost to Assyrian exile (722 BC), affirming hope for full restoration.

All this was a burnt offering unto the LORD—the comprehensive **עֹלָה לִיהְיוֹה** (olah l'YHWH) dedicates their arrival, treasure, and future work entirely to Yahweh.

Historical Context

Burnt offerings were the most costly sacrifices—entirely consumed, giving nothing back to the worshiper. The enormous quantity (twelve bulls, 96 rams, 77 lambs) represented substantial wealth, yet the returning exiles offered lavishly after already delivering 24 tons of silver and 3.75 tons of gold. This extravagant worship reflects gratitude for safe journey and commitment to covenant restoration. The twelve-tribe symbolism was poignant: the northern kingdom had been lost for 260+ years, yet the remnant still worshiped as 'all Israel,' maintaining hope for national reunification under Messiah.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does identifying as 'children of the exile' despite being born in Babylon teach about maintaining covenant identity across generations?
2. How does the twelve-tribe symbolism demonstrate hope for full restoration despite centuries of division and loss?
3. In what ways should worship offerings demonstrate grateful extravagance rather than grudging minimum compliance?

Interlinear Text

בָּתִים מִמְּשֻׁבָּב וְבָאִים

which were come out of the captivity Also the children

H935

H7628

H1121

בְּגֹזֶל הַ

הַקְרֵב יְבוּ

עֹלֶל הַ

of those that had been carried away offered all this was a burnt offering

H1473

H7126

H5930

וְשָׁבָאֵל כָּל עַל וְשָׁבָאֵל לְאֱלֹהִים

unto the God for all Israel bullocks twelve

H430

H3478

H6499

H8147

H6240

H5921

H3605

for all Israel

H3478

צְפִינִים וְשָׁבָע הַ שְׁבֻעִים כְּבָשִׂים שְׁבֻעִים אַיִל יְמִים

rams

ninety

and six

lambs

seventy

and seven

he goats

H352

H8673

H8337

H3532

H7657

H7651

H6842

עֹלֶל הַ בְּכָל עַשְׂרֵה שְׁנִים מְטַעַת אֶת

for a sin offering twelve

H6240

H3605

all this was a burnt offering

H2403

H8147

H5930

לְיְהֹוָה:

unto the LORD

H3068

Additional Cross-References

Ezra 6:17 (Sin): 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.