

Numbers 15:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus shall it be done for one bullock, or for one ram, or for a lamb, or a kid.

Analysis

Thus shall it be done for one bullock, or for one ram, or for a lamb, or a kid

—The standardization formula ensures that worship follows divine prescription, not human innovation. Whether wealthy (bullock) or poor (lamb/kid), each worshiper followed the same proportional system, reflecting the truth that God 'is no respecter of persons' (Acts 10:34).

The phrase underscores the importance of careful obedience to God's revealed will. The Levitical system's precision taught Israel that approaching a holy God requires reverence for His instructions. Nadab and Abihu's 'strange fire' (Leviticus 10:1-2) demonstrated the deadly consequences of liturgical improvisation.

Historical Context

In the ancient world, religious practices varied wildly by region, social class, and personal preference. Israel's uniform worship regulations were countercultural, emphasizing that Yahweh's holiness demanded prescribed (not invented) worship forms.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the principle of prescribed worship challenge modern notions of 'authentic' or 'spontaneous' spiritual expression?
2. What parallels exist between Old Testament sacrificial precision and New Testament calls to worship 'in spirit and truth' (John 4:24)?
3. In what areas might we be tempted to substitute cultural preferences for biblical patterns in worship?

Interlinear Text

אָוֶן כִּי אַתָּה כִּי כִּי
H3602 Thus shall it be done H6213

בָּשָׂר הַשְׂעִיר לְשָׂור
H7794 for one H259

לֹא יְלֹא אֶל אֶל
H176 ram H352

כִּי אַתָּה כִּי כִּי
H176 for one H259

לְשָׂר הַעֲזִים אֶל בְּקָרֶב יְמִינְךָ
H7716 or for a lamb H176 or a kid H3532 H5795

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