

Numbers 15:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall he that offereth his offering unto the LORD bring a meat offering of a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of oil.

Analysis

The grain offering accompanying the animal sacrifice demonstrates that worship involves comprehensive giving—not just animals but also grain and oil. The specific measurements (tenth of an ephah of flour, quarter hin of oil) show that God prescribes proportions for offerings, ensuring adequacy without excess. The oil mixed with flour represents the Spirit's work in making our offerings acceptable. The Reformed doctrine that we can only worship acceptably through the Spirit's enabling is prefigured in this mingling of oil with flour.

Historical Context

Grain offerings accompanied most animal sacrifices, representing the fruit of agricultural labor. The flour was fine, indicating quality. The oil was olive oil, central to Israelite diet and economy. Mixing them created a dough or cake that was partially burned and partially eaten by the priests, demonstrating that God receives worship while His ministers are sustained by the people's offerings.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does the combination of animal and grain offerings teach about comprehensive devotion?
2. How does oil mixed with flour symbolize the Spirit's necessity in making worship acceptable?
3. In what ways should our offerings represent the full scope of our lives and labor?

Interlinear Text

בְּמַקְרֵב יְבָשָׂה	בְּמַקְרֵב יְבָשָׂה	קָרְבָּן וְ	לִיהְיוֹת הַ
Then shall he that offereth	Then shall he that offereth	his offering	unto the LORD
H7126	H7126	H7133	H3068
סְלִתָּה מִנְקָה	עִשְׂרָה וְ	בְּלָא	בְּרַבֵּעַ יְתָהָר
a meat offering	of flour	mingled	with the fourth
H4503	H5560	H6241	H1101
שֶׁמֶן:			בְּהִינָּה
of oil			H7243
H8081			H1969

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 29:40 (Sacrifice): And with the one lamb a tenth deal of flour mingled with the fourth part of an hin of beaten oil; and the fourth part of an hin of wine for a drink offering.

Leviticus 23:13 (Sacrifice): And the meat offering thereof shall be two tenth deals of fine flour mingled with oil, an offering made by fire unto the LORD for a sweet savour: and the drink offering thereof shall be of wine, the fourth part of an hin.

Leviticus 2:1 (Sacrifice): And when any will offer a meat offering unto the LORD, his offering shall be of fine flour; and he shall pour oil upon it, and put frankincense thereon:

Leviticus 6:14 (Sacrifice): And this is the law of the meat offering: the sons of Aaron shall offer it before the LORD, before the altar.

Leviticus 14:10 (Sacrifice): And on the eighth day he shall take two he lambs without blemish, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish, and three tenth deals of fine flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and one log of oil.

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