

Numbers 15:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And for a drink offering thou shalt offer the third part of an
hin of wine, for a sweet savour unto the LORD.

Analysis

This verse prescribes the **drink offering accompanying a ram sacrifice**, requiring one-third hin of wine (approximately 1.3 quarts). The phrase "sweet savour unto the LORD" (reach nichoach l'YHWH) describes not merely pleasant aroma but worship that **brings satisfaction and delight to God**. The drink offering was poured out completely, symbolizing total devotion.

Wine in Scripture represents **joy, celebration, and covenant blessing** (Psalm 104:15). Unlike grain or animal offerings which were consumed, wine was entirely poured out, teaching that some acts of worship involve complete surrender without personal benefit. The specific measurement (one-third hin) demonstrates that **acceptable worship follows divine prescription**, not human preference.

This regulation appears in Numbers 15, a chapter given after Israel's rebellion at Kadesh-barnea. God's provision of worship instructions even after judgment shows His desire for **restored relationship**. The offerings look forward to Christ, whose blood was poured out completely (Mark 14:24) as the ultimate drink offering, bringing eternal satisfaction to the Father.

Historical Context

Drink offerings were common throughout the ancient Near East, but Israel's practice was distinctive in reserving them exclusively for Yahweh. Other cultures poured out wine to multiple deities or to the dead, practices strictly forbidden to

Israel (Deuteronomy 32:38). The hin was an Egyptian liquid measure adopted during Israel's time in Egypt, holding approximately 3.8 liters.

Wine production was central to ancient Israelite agriculture and economy. Archaeological excavations have uncovered numerous wine presses, storage jars, and evidence of sophisticated viticulture throughout Canaan. The requirement to use wine (an expensive commodity in a desert environment) rather than water demonstrated the principle of offering God valuable resources. The pouring out of wine at the base of the altar created a permanent record of devotion, as the ground absorbed what could never be recovered.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does the complete pouring out of wine teach us about the nature of true worship and sacrifice?
2. How can we ensure our worship brings a 'sweet savour' to the Lord rather than being merely ritualistic?
3. In what ways does the precision of Old Testament measurements inform our approach to obedience in New Testament worship?
4. What modern 'drink offerings'—acts of devotion we pour out completely—might God be calling you to make?
5. How does understanding these offerings as pointing to Christ's sacrifice deepen your appreciation for His work on the cross?

Interlinear Text

רִים תַּעֲשֶׂה יְלֵךְ סָגָר לְבָנָה תַּעֲשֶׂה יְלֵךְ סָגָר

of wine And for a drink offering the third part of an hin thou shalt offer savour

H3196

H5262

H7992

H1969

H7126

H7381

לְיְהוָה נִיחָח

for a sweet unto the LORD

H5207

H3068

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