

Numbers 15:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when thou preparest a bullock for a burnt offering, or for a sacrifice in performing a vow, or peace offerings unto the LORD:

Analysis

When thou preparest a bullock for a burnt offering (עֹלָה olah, 'that which ascends')—The burnt offering was wholly consumed on the altar, representing complete consecration to God. The bullock, most valuable of domestic animals, required the largest grain offering (3/10 ephah) and drink offering (1/2 hin of wine).

The olah typologically points to Christ's perfect self-offering (Hebrews 10:5-10). The ascending smoke symbolized prayers and devotion rising to God (Psalm 141:2). Unlike peace offerings where the worshiper ate portions, the burnt offering belonged entirely to Yahweh—a picture of unreserved surrender.

Historical Context

The bullock was costly (worth approximately 30-50 days' wages), making it the sacrifice of significant commitment. In agrarian Israel, livestock represented stored labor and wealth, so offering a bullock was substantial economic worship.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What modern equivalents of 'costly worship' parallel the sacrifice of a valuable bullock?
2. How does the complete consumption of the burnt offering challenge half-hearted dedication to God?
3. In what ways does Christ's role as both priest and offering (Hebrews 9:11-14) fulfill and surpass the Levitical system?

Interlinear Text

וְיִכְּרֹת	תַּעֲשֶׂה	הַ	בְּקָר	רֵ	בְּקָר	עַל	הַ	עַל	אֹזֶן
H3588	And when thou preparest		a bullock		H1241		for a burnt offering		H176
	H6213		H1121				H5930		
לְפָנָיָה	שְׁלָמִים								
לְפָנָיָה:	שְׁלָמִים								
or for a sacrifice	in performing	a vow	H176	or peace offerings	unto the LORD				
H2077	H6381	H5088		H8002	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 3:1 (Sacrifice): And if his oblation be a sacrifice of peace offering, if he offer it of the herd; whether it be a male or female, he shall offer it without blemish before the LORD.

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