

Numbers 15:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall he bring with a bullock a meat offering of three tenth deals of flour mingled with half an hin of oil.

Analysis

Then shall he bring with a bullock a meat offering of three tenth deals of flour—The maximum grain offering (3 ephahs \approx 6.6 liters of flour) accompanied the maximum animal sacrifice. This pairing ensured that blood atonement (animal) was never separated from life consecration (grain/oil representing daily sustenance).

The Hebrew word for flour, סֹלֶת (solet), means 'fine flour'—grain ground to powder, sifted repeatedly. This labor-intensive process pictures the refinement required in worship. Mixed with 1/2 hin (\approx 1.8 liters) of oil, it created a rich offering expressing gratitude for God's abundant provision.

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern cultures, grain and oil were staples of life, often used in pagan fertility offerings. Israel's regulations sanctified these common elements, redirecting them from idolatrous contexts to Yahweh-worship, demonstrating that all provision flows from the Creator.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. Why does God require the 'fine flour' of our best effort rather than accepting leftovers or mediocrity?
2. How does the combination of blood (atonement) and grain (consecration) reflect the dual nature of true worship?
3. What does the transformation of common elements (grain, oil) into holy offerings teach about redeeming everyday life for God's glory?

Interlinear Text

וְהִקְרִיב יֵב	עַל	בֶּן	הַבָּקָר	מִנְחָה	סֵלֶת	שְׁלֹשָׁה
Then shall he bring	H5921	H1121	with a bullock	a meat offering	of flour	of three
H7126			H1241	H4503	H5560	H7969
תֵּנָּה יָמִים	וְלֹ	בִּשְׁמֵן	חֲצִי	הֵינִי:		
tenth deals	mingled	of oil	with half	an hin		
H6241	H1101	H8081	H2677	H1969		

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 28:12 (Sacrifice): And three tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one bullock; and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, for one ram;

Numbers 28:14 (Sacrifice): And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering of every month throughout the months of the year.

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.

