

Numbers 28:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the beginnings of your months ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, seven lambs of the first year without spot;

Analysis

The monthly new moon offering marked the beginning of each lunar month, sanctifying time itself to God. Israel's calendar was lunar, making these offerings twelve times yearly (or thirteen in leap years). The substantial offerings - two bulls, one ram, seven lambs - exceeded daily sacrifices, showing each new month as a fresh consecration of time to God. This points to Christ who makes all things new (Rev 21:5) and sanctifies every season of life. Early Christians kept the principle of regular, periodic renewal through the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:25-26).

Historical Context

New moon festivals were significant in ancient Israel (1 Sam 20:5, Isa 1:13-14, Col 2:16). They marked time for agricultural planning, debt settlements, and covenant renewal. These monthly offerings occurred at the tabernacle (later temple), requiring representatives from across Israel, fostering national unity and shared worship rhythm. The practice continued until the temple's destruction in 70 AD.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you mark the beginning of new seasons in your life as opportunities for renewed consecration to God?
2. What would it look like to sanctify your calendar - bringing your use of time under God's lordship?

Interlinear Text

וְבָרָא שֵׁיָה	עַל	הַ	לְהִיא הַ
And in the beginnings	of your months	ye shall offer	a burnt offering
H7218	H2320	H7126	H5930
unto the LORD			H3068
בָּנִי כָּבֵשׂ יִם אֲחַד וְאֶל שְׂנִי יִם בָּקָר יִם			
bullocks	of the first	young	two
H6499	H1121	H1241	H8147
פָּר יִם בָּנִי כָּבֵשׂ יִם אֲחַד וְאֶל שְׂנִי יִם בָּקָר יִם			
lambs	of the first		
H3532	H1121		
תְּמִימָם שְׁבַע הַ שְׁנִי הַ			
year	seven	without spot	
H8141	H7651	H8549	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 10:10 (Sacrifice): Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

Ezekiel 46:6 (Parallel theme): And in the day of the new moon it shall be a young bullock without blemish, and six lambs, and a ram: they shall be without blemish.

Colossians 2:16 (Parallel theme): Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

1 Chronicles 23:31 (Sacrifice): And to offer all burnt sacrifices unto the LORD in the sabbaths, in the new moons, and on the set feasts, by number, according to the order commanded unto them, continually before the LORD:

Hosea 2:11 (Parallel theme): I will also cause all her mirth to cease, her feast days, her new moons, and her sabbaths, and all her solemn feasts.

2 Chronicles 2:4 (Sacrifice): Behold, I build an house to the name of the LORD my God, to dedicate it to him, and to burn before him sweet incense, and for the continual shewbread, and for the burnt offerings morning and evening, on the sabbaths, and on the new moons, and on the solemn feasts of the LORD our God. This is an ordinance for ever to Israel.

1 Samuel 20:5 (Parallel theme): And David said unto Jonathan, Behold, to morrow is the new moon, and I should not fail to sit with the king at meat: but let me go, that I may hide myself in the field unto the third day at even.

Ezra 3:5 (Sacrifice): And afterward offered the continual burnt offering, both of the new moons, and of all the set feasts of the LORD that were consecrated, and of every one that willingly offered a freewill offering unto the LORD.