

Numbers 28:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a several tenth deal of flour mingled with oil for a meat offering unto one lamb; for a burnt offering of a sweet savour, a sacrifice made by fire unto the LORD.

Analysis

A several tenth deal (עֶשֶׂרֶן, issaron)—literally "a tenth part" of an ephah, roughly 2 quarts of flour for each lamb. The term "several" (תְּ, bad) means "separate" or "individual," emphasizing that each lamb received its own grain offering, not a collective portion. This individualized provision mirrors God's personal care.

A sweet savour (רֵיחַ נִיחֹחַ, reach nichoach)—"a soothing aroma" or "a fragrance of rest." This anthropomorphic language depicts sacrifices as pleasing to God, not because He needs food (Psalm 50:12-13), but because they represented obedience and devotion. Paul applies this same phrase to Christ's self-offering (Ephesians 5:2), revealing that these ancient rituals foreshadowed the ultimately pleasing sacrifice.

Historical Context

The monthly new moon festivals (Numbers 28:11-15) were less solemn than Sabbaths but still required cessation of ordinary work and assembly for worship. Archaeological evidence shows that ancient Near Eastern cultures also marked lunar cycles, but Israel's new moons uniquely pointed to the Creator who "appointed the moon for seasons" (Psalm 104:19).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the "separate" portion for each lamb reflect God's attention to individual worshipers within corporate gatherings?
2. What does it mean for a life to be a "sweet savour" to God today, according to Ephesians 5:2 and Philippians 4:18?
3. Why would God use sensory language (fragrance, savour) to describe spiritual realities?

Interlinear Text

עָשָׂר וָיְלָת	עָשָׂר וָיְלָת	סְלָת	מַנְחָה
And a several tenth deal	And a several tenth deal	of flour	for a meat offering
H6241	H6241	H5560	H4503
בְּלֹאָל הַלְּבָשָׂת	בְּלֹאָל הַלְּבָשָׂת	עַלְהָה	נִיחָר
mingled	with oil	lamb	unto one
H1101	H8081	H3532	H259
לְעַלְלָה	לְעַלְלָה	עַלְהָה	כִּיְמָה
a sacrifice made by fire	unto the LORD	for a burnt offering	savour
H801	H3068	H5930	H7381
אֲשֶׁר הַיְהָה:			of a sweet
			H5207

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