

Numbers 28:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye shall offer a sacrifice made by fire for a burnt offering unto the LORD; two young bullocks, and one ram, and seven lambs of the first year: they shall be unto you without blemish:

Analysis

A sacrifice made by fire (הִשְׁחָ, isheh)—offerings consumed by fire on the altar, distinguishing them from non-burnt offerings. The burnt offering (עֹלָה, olah, "that which goes up") was wholly consumed, symbolizing total consecration to God. **Two young bullocks, and one ram, and seven lambs of the first year**—a substantial offering requiring community resources. The animals must be **without blemish** (תְּמִימִם, temimim)—physically perfect, reflecting moral purity required of worshipers (Psalm 15).

This typology finds fulfillment in Christ, "a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19). Hebrews 9:14 emphasizes that Christ "offered himself without spot to God," making animal perfection a prophetic pointer to His sinless humanity. The fire that consumed these offerings symbolized divine judgment that Christ bore vicariously.

Historical Context

Passover week offerings were more elaborate than regular monthly sacrifices, reflecting the feast's significance as Israel's founding event. The two bullocks, one ram, and seven lambs provided substantial meat for the priests (who received portions) while the fat and blood were fully offered to God, maintaining the principle that God receives the first and best.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the requirement of "without blemish" animals point to Christ's necessity as a sinless substitute?
2. What would it mean to offer your life as a "living sacrifice" (Romans 12:1) in the spirit of these wholly-consumed burnt offerings?
3. How does the costliness of festival offerings challenge minimalist approaches to worship and giving?

Interlinear Text

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But ye shall offer		a sacrifice made by fire		for a burnt offering		unto the LORD	
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Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 15:21 (Sacrifice): And if there be any blemish therein, as if it be lame, or blind, or have any ill blemish, thou shalt not sacrifice it unto the LORD thy God.

Leviticus 22:20 (Parallel theme): But whatsoever hath a blemish, that shall ye not offer: for it shall not be acceptable for you.

Numbers 29:8 (Sacrifice): But ye shall offer a burnt offering unto the LORD for a sweet savour; one young bullock, one ram, and seven lambs of the first year; they shall be unto you without blemish:

Numbers 28:31 (Sacrifice): Ye shall offer them beside the continual burnt offering, and his meat offering, (they shall be unto you without blemish) and their drink offerings.

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