

Numbers 28:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one kid of the goats, to make an atonement for you.

Analysis

And one kid of the goats, to make an atonement for you—Beyond burnt and grain offerings, Pentecost required one male goat (שְׁעִיר־עִזִּים se'ir-izim) as sin offering **to make atonement** (לְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיכֶם lekhaber aleikhem, to cover/propitiate for you). Even joyful harvest celebration required recognition of human sinfulness requiring blood atonement—no worship approached God presuming on human merit.

This pattern—thanksgiving offerings paired with sin offerings—teaches that gratitude must flow through cleansed conscience. The New Testament reveals Christ as ultimate sin offering whose 'blood purges the conscience from dead works to serve the living God' (Hebrews 9:14). Celebratory worship resting on atoning sacrifice anticipates the Lord's Supper, where we give thanks 'for the body broken' and 'blood shed' for our sins.

Historical Context

The goat sin offering was standard for communal worship across Israel's festivals (Numbers 28:15,22,30; 29:5,11,16, etc.). Unlike burnt offerings (wholly consumed by fire), priests ate portions of sin offerings (Leviticus 6:24-26), symbolically bearing Israel's sin through consumption and intercession.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the requirement for sin offering even during joyful harvest celebration guard against presumptuous worship ignoring human sinfulness?
2. What does pairing thanksgiving with atonement teach about the proper foundation for gratitude and celebration?
3. How can contemporary worship maintain biblical balance between celebration and sobering recognition of sin requiring Christ's ongoing mediation?

Interlinear Text

שֶֹׁעִיר	עֵזִיִּים	אֶחָד	לְכַפֵּר	עֲלֵיכֶם:
kid	of the goats	And one	to make an atonement	
H8163	H5795	H259	H3722	H5921

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 28:22 (Parallel theme): And one goat for a sin offering, to make an atonement for you.

Numbers 28:15 (Parallel theme): And one kid of the goats for a sin offering unto the LORD shall be offered, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering.