

Numbers 29:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall offer a burnt offering, a sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour unto the LORD; thirteen young bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year; they shall be without blemish:

Analysis

Thirteen young bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs—The fifteenth day of the seventh month inaugurated Sukkot (Feast of Tabernacles), the harvest thanksgiving festival. The staggering number of animals (29 total) surpassed all other festivals, reflecting agricultural abundance and joy in God's provision.

A sacrifice made by fire, of a sweet savour (אִשֶּׁה רֵיחַ נִיחֹחַ, isheh reach nichoach) —'Made by fire' emphasizes the consuming flame transforming the offering into fragrant smoke ascending to heaven. This festival celebrated dwelling in temporary booths (sukkot), commemorating wilderness wanderings when God was Israel's shelter (Leviticus 23:42-43).

Historical Context

Sukkot, one of three mandatory pilgrimage feasts (Deuteronomy 16:16), occurred post-harvest (September/October). Instituted in Leviticus 23, it prefigured millennial glory when all nations will celebrate it (Zechariah 14:16). The seven-day feast plus eighth day assembly totaled eight days.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Sukkot's emphasis on temporary dwellings challenge modern attachment to material security?
2. What prophetic significance does Zechariah 14:16's vision of Gentile nations keeping Sukkot hold for Christ's kingdom?

Interlinear Text

וְהִקְרַבְתָּם	עֹלָה	אֲשֶׁה	רֵיחַ	נִיחַ		
And ye shall offer	a burnt offering	a sacrifice made by fire	savour	of a sweet		
H7126	H5930	H801	H7381	H5207		
לַיהוָה	פָּרִים	בְּנֵי	בָקָר	שְׁלֹשָׁה	עֶשְׂרִי	אֵילָן
unto the LORD	bullocks	of the first	young	thirteen	H6240	rams
H3068	H6499	H1121	H1241	H7969		H352
שְׁנַיִם	כִּבְשִׁים	בְּנֵי	שָׁנָה	אַרְבָּעָה	עֶשְׂרִי	
two	lambs	of the first	year	and fourteen	H6240	
H8147	H3532	H1121	H8141	H702		
תְּמִימִם	יְהִי:					
they shall be without blemish						
H8549	H1961					

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 28:11 (Sacrifice): 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;

Ezra 3:4 (Sacrifice): They kept also the feast of tabernacles, as it is written, and offered the daily burnt offerings by number, according to the custom, as the duty of every day required;

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