

Numbers 29:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their meat offering shall be of flour mingled with oil,
three tenth deals unto every bullock of the thirteen bullocks,
two tenth deals to each ram of the two rams,

Analysis

Three tenth deals unto every bullock of the thirteen bullocks—Each bullock received 3 esronim (6+ quarts) of fine flour with oil, totaling 39 esronim for all thirteen, plus 4 for the rams and 14 for the lambs—a massive 57 esronim (nearly 30 gallons) on day one alone. This abundance reflected harvest bounty and covenant generosity.

The number thirteen bullocks uniquely begins the descending pattern (13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7) over seven days, totaling 70 bullocks. Jewish tradition saw these 70 as atonement for the 70 Gentile nations (Genesis 10), Israel interceding for the world—fulfilled when Messiah brings 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' (Luke 2:32).

Historical Context

The flour-oil mixture required extensive preparation by Levitical families. With thousands of pilgrims in Jerusalem (post-conquest), the temple courts bustled with activity. Priests worked in rotating divisions (mishmarot) to manage the sheer volume of offerings during the three pilgrimage feasts.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the 70-bullocks-for-70-nations tradition shape understanding of Israel's priestly role among the nations?
2. What does the feast's lavish generosity teach about worship that costs us something versus token religiosity?

Interlinear Text

וּמִנְחָתָם	סֵלֶת	בְּלוּלָה	בֶּשֶׁת מֵן	לְשִׁלֶּשֶׁה		
And their meat offering	shall be of flour	mingled	with oil	of the thirteen		
H4503	H5560	H1101	H8081	H7969		
עֶשְׂרִים	פָּרִים	הָאֶחָד	לְשִׁלֶּשֶׁה	עֶשֶׂר	פָּרִים	לְשֵׁנֵי
tenth deals	bullock	to each	of the thirteen	H6240	bullock	of the two
H6241	H6499	H259	H7969		H6499	H8147
עֶשְׂרִים	הָאֵילָם:	הָאֶחָד	לְשֵׁנֵי	הָאֵילָם:		
tenth deals	ram	to each	of the two	ram		
H6241	H352	H259	H8147	H352		