

Numbers 29:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their meat offering and their drink offerings for the bullocks, for the rams, and for the lambs, shall be according to their number, after the manner:

Analysis

According to their number, after the manner (kemishpatam, כְּמִשְׁפָּטָם)—'After the manner' uses the legal term mishpat, meaning ordinance, judgment, prescribed custom. This wasn't casual worship but covenant law. Bemidbar (Numbers) means 'in the wilderness,' where God regulated every aspect of tabernacle worship to prevent innovation.

The phrase's repetition (verses 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 37) functions as liturgical refrain, emphasizing that procedures established in verses 14-15 governed all subsequent days. God prescribed not just what to offer but how—portions, preparations, accompaniments—leaving nothing to human ingenuity.

Historical Context

Codified law distinguished Israel from surrounding nations whose priests improvised rituals based on omens or royal whim. Israel's written Torah enabled consistency across centuries and geography. Even in Babylonian exile (586-516 BC), Jews preserved sacrificial knowledge for temple restoration under Ezra-Nehemiah.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God's detailed prescription challenge the modern worship philosophy 'it doesn't matter how you worship, just that you do'?
2. What does the phrase 'after the manner' teach about the regulative principle that worship must be authorized by Scripture?

Interlinear Text

וּמִנְחָתָם	וְנִסְכֵּיהֶם	לִפְרִים	לְאֵילִם
And their meat offering	and their drink offerings	for the bullocks	for the rams
H4503	H5262	H6499	H352
וּלְכֶבֶשׂ יִם	בְּמִסְפָּרָם	כַּמִּשְׁפָּט:	
and for the lambs	shall be according to their number	after the manner	
H3532	H4557	H4941	

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 28:7 (Sacrifice): And the drink offering thereof shall be the fourth part of an hin for the one lamb: in the holy place shalt thou cause the strong wine to be poured unto the LORD for a drink offering.

Numbers 28:14 (Sacrifice): And their drink offerings shall be half an hin of wine unto a bullock, and the third part of an hin unto a ram, and a fourth part of an hin unto a lamb: this is the burnt offering of every month throughout the months of the year.