

Numbers 29:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on the third day eleven bullocks, two rams, fourteen lambs of the first year without blemish;

Analysis

On the third day eleven bullocks—The descent continues (13, 12, 11...), maintaining rhythmic predictability. Day three's eleven bullocks plus two rams and fourteen lambs totaled 27 animals for burnt offerings alone, plus one sin offering—28 animals on one day, not counting the tamid lambs.

This massive slaughter required multiple priests working simultaneously at the bronze altar. The sheer scale of Sukkot's sacrifices distinguished it as the festival of abundance, reflecting agricultural harvest and anticipating Messianic banquet imagery (Isaiah 25:6, Matthew 22:1-14, Revelation 19:9).

Historical Context

Bronze altar dimensions (Exodus 27:1—7.5 feet square, 4.5 feet high) limited simultaneous carcass processing. Priests worked in coordinated teams: slaughterers, blood-sprinklers, butchers, fire-tenders. The Mishnah (Tamid 3-4) describes this choreography, preserved from Second Temple practice.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Sukkot's extravagant sacrificial abundance prefigure the gospel's lavish grace 'exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think' (Ephesians 3:20)?
2. What does the festival's joyful generosity teach about Christian stewardship versus miserly religiosity?

Interlinear Text

וְבִיּוֹם	הַשְּׁלִישִׁי	פָּרִים	עֲשָׂרָה	אֵילָם	שְׁנָיִם
day	And on the third	bullocks	eleven		rams
H3117	H7992	H6499	H6249	H6240	H352
וְכִבְשֵׁי	בְּנֵי	שָׁנָה	אַרְבָּעָה	עֲשָׂרָה	תְּמִימִם:
lambs	of the first	year	fourteen		without blemish
H3532	H1121	H8141	H702	H6240	H8549

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