

Numbers 29:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on the fourth day ten bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year without blemish:

Analysis

On the fourth day ten bullocks—Midpoint of the seven-day festival, the bullock count reaches ten, symbolizing completeness (ten commandments, ten plagues, ten esronim in the showbread). The pattern 13→12→11→10→9→8→7 creates arithmetic symmetry: total 70 bullocks, average 10 per day.

Day four's offerings (10 bullocks, 2 rams, 14 lambs, 1 goat) continued the established rhythm. The predictability taught worshipers that God values faithful consistency over dramatic innovation. Covenant relationship thrived on daily obedience, not sporadic enthusiasm.

Historical Context

By day four, thousands of pilgrims lived in temporary booths (sukkot) throughout Jerusalem, reenacting wilderness wanderings. Families ate festive meals, waved palm branches (lulav) and citron (etrog), and celebrated God's provision—customs still observed in modern Judaism's Sukkot celebration.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the midpoint's ten bullocks symbolize covenant completeness even while the overall pattern descends toward fulfillment?
2. What does the festival's week-long duration teach about worship as sustained lifestyle versus occasional event?

Interlinear Text

בְּשָׁבָעַ יְמִים	שְׁנַת יְמִים	אַיִל מָעָשָׂר	פָּר יְמִים	קָרְבַּיּוּת	וּבְיִום	וּבְיִום
day	And on the fourth	bullocks	ten	rams	two	lambs
H3117	H7243	H6499	H6235	H352	H8147	H3532
בְּנִי	שָׁנַת	רָאשָׁת	שְׁנַת	בְּנִי	תְּמִימָם:	
of the first	year	and fourteen	H6240	without blemish		
H1121	H8141	H702		H8549		

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