

Numbers 29:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And on the fifth day nine bullocks, two rams, and fourteen lambs of the first year without spot:

Analysis

On the fifth day nine bullocks—The descending pattern of olah (עֹלָה, burnt offering) continues through the seven days of Sukkot (Tabernacles), moving from thirteen bullocks on day one to seven on day seven. This diminishing sequence totals seventy bulls, which rabbinic tradition connects to the seventy nations (Genesis 10), symbolizing Israel interceding for the whole world through sacrificial worship.

The precision of **without spot** (טָמִיִּם, tamim, unblemished) underscores the perfection required in offerings pointing to Christ, "a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Peter 1:19). Each day's elaborate ritual reinforced Israel's dependence on substitutionary atonement.

Historical Context

These Feast of Tabernacles regulations (Leviticus 23:33-43) were given at Sinai but fully implemented after entering Canaan. The massive number of sacrifices—totaling 71 bulls, 15 rams, 105 lambs, and 8 goats over eight days—required extensive priestly coordination and demonstrated Israel's covenant commitment through costly worship.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the descending pattern of seventy bulls for seventy nations challenge Israel's (and the church's) call to bless all peoples?
2. What does the costliness of these festival sacrifices reveal about worthy worship versus convenience?
3. How does the requirement for unblemished animals deepen your appreciation for Christ's perfect sacrifice?

Interlinear Text

וּבַיּוֹם	הַחֲמִישִׁי י	פָּרִים	תְּשֶׁעַ ה	אֵילָם	שְׁנַיִם	כִּבְשֵׁי ים
day	And on the fifth	bullocks	nine	rams	two	lambs
H3117	H2549	H6499	H8672	H352	H8147	H3532
בְּנֵי	שָׁנָה	אַרְבָּעָה	עֶשֶׂר	תְּמִימִם:		
of the first	year	and fourteen	H6240	without spot		
H1121	H8141	H702		H8549		
