

Numbers 29:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And one goat for a sin offering; beside the continual burnt offering, his meat offering, and his drink offering.

Analysis

One goat for a sin offering—The sixth repetition of this phrase in the Tabernacles liturgy (vv. 5, 11, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34, 38) underscores the relentless need for atonement. The chatat goat was not incidental but central—**beside the continual burnt offering** anchored each day's elaborate ritual in the reality of human sinfulness.

The daily sin offering during a joyful harvest festival reveals a profound theological truth: celebration before a holy God requires covering. This dual emphasis on joy and atonement finds fulfillment in Christ, through whom believers "rejoice with joy unspeakable" (1 Peter 1:8) because our sins are fully covered.

Historical Context

Unlike the Yom Kippur sin offering (Leviticus 16), which involved elaborate ceremonies and the high priest entering the Holy of Holies, the daily festival sin offerings were routine priestly duties. Yet both testified to the same need: sinful people require mediation to approach God.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you balance joyful celebration of God's blessings with sober awareness of your ongoing need for grace?
2. What does the "beside the continual burnt offering" pattern teach about layering special devotion on regular spiritual disciplines?
3. How does the repetitive nature of sin offerings throughout the festival deepen your gratitude for Christ's once-for-all atonement?

Interlinear Text

וְשָׁעַר	מִתְּעִטָּה	אֶת	מִתְּעִטָּה	אֶת	אֶת	מִלְבָד	עַל	תְּמִימָה	יְדֵיכֶם
goat	for a sin offering	And one				burnt offering	beside the continual		
H8163	H2403	H259				H905		H5930	H8548

וְשָׁעַר מִנְחָת הַמְּסֻכִּים
his meat offering and his drink offering

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