

Numbers 7:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the princes offered for dedicating of the altar in the day that it was anointed, even the princes offered their offering before the altar.

Analysis

The princes offered for the altar's dedication 'on the day that it was anointed.' Their voluntary, generous gifts demonstrated joyful worship - bringing beyond required offerings. Each tribe's identical offering (v.13-83) showed equality before God regardless of tribe size or prominence. The repetitive recording of each tribe's offering honors every giver - God notices and values each act of worship, no matter how similar to others'. This teaches that worship isn't competition but united offering to God. The New Testament continues this: believers are 'lively stones... built up a spiritual house' (1 Pet 2:5), each contributing to God's temple with their gifts.

Historical Context

This twelve-day dedication ceremony occurred after the tabernacle's erection and anointing (v.1). Each tribal leader brought his offering on a successive day, creating an extended celebration. The gifts included wagons and oxen for transport, plus offerings of silver, gold, incense, and animals for sacrifice. The total offerings were substantial, demonstrating both Israel's gratitude for God's dwelling among them and their commitment to supporting worship. The detailed recording (each day described identically) fills most of Numbers 7, showing God values our worship's details and remembers each offering.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Is your worship characterized by joyful generosity beyond mere obligation?
2. Do you give to God's work cheerfully, or begrudgingly comparing your gift to others'?

Interlinear Text

וְקָרַב יְבוֹ	הַנְּשִׂיָּא מִ	אֶת	חֲנֻכַּת	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:	בִּי וּמִ
offered	And the princes	H853	for dedicating	of the altar	in the day
H7126	H5387		H2598	H4196	H3117
הַמֶּשֶׁחַח	אֶת וְ	וְקָרַב יְבוֹ	הַנְּשִׂיָּא מִ	אֶת	קִרְבָּנָם מִ
that it was anointed	H853	offered	And the princes	H853	their offering
H4886		H7126	H5387		H7133
לִפְנֵי יְ	הַמִּזְבֵּחַ:				
before	of the altar				
H6440	H4196				

Additional Cross-References

2 Chronicles 7:9 (Sacrifice): And in the eighth day they made a solemn assembly: for they kept the dedication of the altar seven days, and the feast seven days.

Nehemiah 12:27 (Parallel theme): And at the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem they sought the Levites out of all their places, to bring them to Jerusalem, to keep the dedication with gladness, both with thanksgivings, and with singing, with cymbals, psalteries, and with harps.

Deuteronomy 20:5 (Parallel theme): And the officers shall speak unto the people, saying, What man is there that hath built a new house, and hath not dedicated it? let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the battle, and another man dedicate it.

1 Kings 8:63 (Sacrifice): And Solomon offered a sacrifice of peace offerings, which he offered unto the LORD, two and twenty thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep. So the king and all the children of Israel dedicated the house of the LORD.

2 Chronicles 7:5 (Sacrifice): And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God.

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