

Numbers 7:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD said unto Moses, They shall offer their offering, each prince on his day, for the dedicating of the altar.

Analysis

The instruction that one prince per day would offer demonstrates orderly worship and prevents chaos or competition. Spreading the offerings over twelve days allowed each tribal leader to present his gift with proper ceremony and attention. This reflects the Reformed principle of decency and order in worship—God is not honored by confusion or haste but by thoughtful, orderly service. The daily pattern also created anticipation and sustained focus on dedication for an extended period.

Historical Context

The tabernacle dedication lasted twelve days beyond its initial anointing and consecration. Each day, a different tribal leader presented identical offerings, demonstrating both tribal unity (same gifts) and tribal identity (each tribe participating). This public display reinforced tribal structure while emphasizing national unity under God.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the principle of order in worship challenge both rigid formalism and chaotic informality?
2. What does the extended dedication period teach about sustained focus on consecration rather than one-time events?
3. In what ways does allowing each leader his own day balance unity with respect for individual participation?

Interlinear Text

בְּשָׁאַל יְהִי הָאֱלֹהִים מֵשֶׁה אֶל־יְהִי אָמֵר
said And the LORD unto Moses prince each on his day prince
H559 H3068 H413 H4872 H5387 H259 H3117 H5387

לְחַנְכָּה תְּמִימָד בְּיַד־יְהִי אָמֵר
each on his day They shall offer their offering for the dedicating
H259 H3117 H7126 H853 H7133 H2598

בְּמִזְבֵּחַ
of the altar
H4196

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