

Numbers 7:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One young bullock, one ram, one lamb of the first year, for a burnt offering:

Analysis

The young bullock, ram, and lamb without blemish for burnt offering represent comprehensive dedication—strength (bullock), leadership (ram), and innocence (lamb). The burnt offering was wholly consumed on the altar, symbolizing complete surrender to God. The requirement that animals be without blemish teaches that God deserves perfect offerings, not defective gifts. This prefigures Christ, the spotless Lamb of God who offered Himself wholly for our redemption. The Reformed doctrine of Christ's perfect sacrifice fulfilling all Old Testament types is foundational here.

Historical Context

Burnt offerings were completely consumed by fire, with nothing reserved for the priests or the offerer. This total consumption symbolized complete devotion to God. The three different animals together represented a substantial offering, demonstrating the princes' significant wealth dedicated to God.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do the three animals together symbolize the comprehensiveness of Christ's sacrifice?
2. What does the requirement for unblemished animals teach about God's standard of perfection?
3. In what ways should the total consumption of the burnt offering inform our understanding of complete surrender to God?

Interlinear Text

רֵת אֶת־בָּנָה אֶת־בָּנָה אֶת־בָּנָה

bullock **One** **of the first** **young** **ram** **One** **lamb** **One**

H6499

H259

H1121

H1241

H352

H259

H3532

H259

לְעַלְהָ שְׁנַת וְבָנָה

of the first **year** **for a burnt offering**

H1121

H8141

H5930

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