

Numbers 7:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And for a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year: this was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.

Analysis

The peace offerings of oxen, rams, goats, and lambs constituted a feast celebrated in God's presence. These offerings were partially burned on the altar, partially given to the priests, and partially eaten by the offerer, symbolizing communion with God and community. The variety and number of animals (seven total) indicate abundant provision for celebration. This reflects the Reformed understanding that God is glorified not only in our sacrifices but in our joy and fellowship in His presence. Worship includes both solemnity and celebration.

Historical Context

Peace offerings were unique in that they created fellowship meals eaten in the tabernacle courtyard in God's presence. The fat was burned as the Lord's portion, choice portions went to the priests, and the bulk was eaten by the offerer and his family within a prescribed time. These offerings transformed worship into feast, celebrating God's provision and blessing.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the fellowship meal aspect of peace offerings enrich our understanding of communion and the Lord's Supper?
2. What does the abundance of the peace offerings teach about joy in God's presence?
3. In what ways should celebration and feasting be incorporated into Christian worship alongside solemnity?

Interlinear Text

וּלְזֶבַח	הַשְּׁלָמִים	בֶּקָר	שְׁנַיִם	אֵילִם	חֲמִשָּׁה
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams	five
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352	H2568
זֶה	חֲמִשָּׁה	שָׁנָה	בֶּן	כִּבְשֵׁי יִם	חֲמִשָּׁה
H2088	H2568	H8141	H1121	H3532	H6260
הַשְּׁלָמִים	חֲמִשָּׁה	שָׁנָה	בֶּן	כִּבְשֵׁי יִם	חֲמִשָּׁה
H2568	H2568	H8141	H1121	H3532	H6260
קָרַב	נָחֹשׁ וִן	בֶּן	עֲמִינָדָב:		
this was the offering	of Nahshon	of the first	of Amminadab		
H7133	H5177	H1121	H5992		