

Numbers 7:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

The burnt offering of bullock, ram, and lamb continues the pattern of total dedication to God. These three animals together—the strength of the ox, the leadership of the ram, and the innocence of the lamb—represent the totality of what Israel offered. Each completely consumed by fire, holding nothing back. This comprehensive dedication prefigures Christ who gave Himself wholly as our burnt offering, holding nothing back in His sacrifice. The Reformed doctrine of Christ's active and passive obedience is illustrated—He both fulfilled all righteousness and bore all punishment.

Historical Context

The repetition of these offerings day after day reinforced the costliness of worship and dedication. Each tribe witnessed the others' offerings, creating communal commitment and mutual encouragement. The consistent pattern across twelve days established that devotion to God should be sustained, not sporadic.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What areas of life are we tempted to hold back from complete dedication to God?
2. How does Christ's total self-giving challenge partial commitment in Christian living?
3. In what ways does public, repeated dedication strengthen communal faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

פָּר	אֶחָד	בֶּן	בָּקָר	אֶל	אֶחָד	כֶּבֶשׂ	אֶחָד
bullock	One	of the first	young	ram	One	lamb	One
H6499	H259	H1121	H1241	H352	H259	H3532	H259
בֶּן	שָׁנָה	לְעֹלָה:					
of the first	year	for a burnt offering					
H1121	H8141	H5930					

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