

Numbers 7:23

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 Nethaneel the son of Zuar.

Analysis

The peace offerings—two oxen, five rams, five goats, five lambs—provided abundant meat for fellowship meals. The numbers (totaling twelve animals) speak of completeness and abundance. These offerings transformed worship from duty into celebration, from sacrifice into feast. This reflects the theological truth that reconciliation with God leads to joy and fellowship, not merely obligation. The Reformed understanding of worship includes both reverent fear and joyful celebration in God's presence.

Historical Context

The peace offerings were eaten by the offerers, their families, and guests within the tabernacle precincts, creating large communal meals. These feasts would have involved entire tribal contingents, cementing social bonds while celebrating covenant relationship with God. The abundance ensured no one went away hungry.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the transition from sin offering to peace offering illustrate the gospel movement from guilt to grace?
2. What does the communal feasting aspect teach about worship as corporate, not merely individual?
3. In what ways should Christian worship balance solemnity about sin with joy in salvation?

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 יִם
H2088	H2568	H8141	H1121	H3532	H2568
הַשְּׁלָמִים	חֲמִשָּׁה	שָׁנָה	בֶּן	כִּבְשֵׁי יִם	חֲמִשָּׁה יִם
H2568	H2568	H8141	H1121	H3532	H2568
קָרַב	נִתְּנָה לְ	בֶּן	צוּעָר:		
this was the offering	of Nethaneel	of the first	of Zuar		
H7133	H5417	H1121	H6686		

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