

# 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

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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

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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

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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וְلֹא בְּחִ	בְּשָׁלְמִים	בְּקָרְ	בְּקָרְ	אַיִל מְ	שְׁנִים	שְׁנִים
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams	five	
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352	H2568	
בְּקָרְ	כְּבָשָׂ יִם	בְּקָרְ	בְּ	שְׁנִהְ	שְׁנִהְ	וְ
he goats	five	lambs	of the first	year	five	H2088
H6260	H2568	H3532	H1121	H8141	H2568	
בְּ	נְתָנָה לְ	בְּ	בְּ	צְוָעָרְ	קְרָבְ	וְ
this was the offering	of Nethaneel	of the first	of the first	of Zuar		
H7133	H5417	H1121	H1121	H6686		

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