

Numbers 7:35

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 Elizur the son of Shedeur.

Analysis

The peace offerings creating fellowship meals transformed worship from individual sacrifice into communal celebration. Eating together in God's presence fostered unity among the tribes while celebrating vertical reconciliation with God. These meals were not somber but joyful, reflecting the truth that reconciliation produces joy. The abundant provision—twelve animals total—ensured everyone could participate fully in the celebration. The Lord's Supper in the New Testament echoes this pattern of reconciliation expressed through shared meals.

Historical Context

Peace offering meals were eaten within the tabernacle courtyard within prescribed time limits to prevent spoilage and maintain the meal's sacred character. Families invited guests to share their portion, creating networks of relationship and hospitality. These communal meals built social cohesion alongside spiritual communion.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does sharing meals in God's presence strengthen both our relationship with Him and with each other?
2. What does the joyful nature of peace offerings teach about the Christian life?
3. In what ways can Christian communities recover the connection between worship and shared meals?

Interlinear Text

וְلֹא בְּחִ	בְּשָׁלְמִים	בְּקָר	שְׁנִים	אַיִלִים	קָמָשׁ ה
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams	five
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352	H2568
וְלֹא בְּחִ	בְּשָׁלְמִים	בְּקָר	שְׁנִים	אַיִלִים	קָמָשׁ ה
he goats	five	lambs	of the first	year	five
H6260	H2568	H3532	H1121	H8141	H2568
וְלֹא בְּחִ	בְּשָׁלְמִים	בְּקָר	שְׁנִים	אַיִלִים	קָמָשׁ ה
this was the offering	of Elizur	of the first	of Shedeur		
H7133	H468	H1121	H7707		

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