

Numbers 7:40

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One kid of the goats for a sin offering:

Analysis

The kid of the goats for sin offering continues to address sin even in joyful dedication. This repetition emphasizes that confronting sin is not negative or pessimistic but realistic and necessary. We cannot celebrate reconciliation without acknowledging the sin that necessitated it. The sin offering doesn't dampen celebration but makes it possible. The Reformed doctrine that assurance of salvation includes ongoing conviction of sin is reflected here—we simultaneously rejoice in forgiveness and acknowledge ongoing sin.

Historical Context

The sin offering required confession of specific sins when known, or general acknowledgment of defilement when the specific sin was unclear. This practice maintained humility and prevented presumption. The consistent need for sin offerings taught Israel that access to God always required acknowledgment of sin and trust in substitutionary atonement.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does ongoing confession of sin coexist with confidence in complete forgiveness?
2. What does the placement of sin offerings before fellowship offerings teach about approaching God?
3. In what ways does acknowledging sin enhance rather than diminish Christian joy?

Interlinear Text

לְמַטֵּאתְךָ אֶת־עַזְיָם שֶׁבַיְר

kid of the goats One for a sin offering

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