

Numbers 7:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One kid of the goats for a sin offering:

Analysis

The kid of the goats for sin offering addresses the reality that even in contexts of extraordinary devotion (tribal princes dedicating the tabernacle), sin must be addressed. No human righteousness, no matter how impressive, eliminates the need for atonement. This teaches humility—even our best works are tainted with sin and require forgiveness. The Reformed understanding of *simul justus et peccator* (simultaneously justified and sinner) is illustrated. We are both dedicated servants and needy sinners requiring ongoing atonement.

Historical Context

The consistent sin offering throughout the dedication period prevented triumphalism or pride. The message was clear: this magnificent tabernacle, these costly offerings, these devoted leaders all existed only by God's grace and required blood atonement for acceptance. Human achievement never replaces divine provision.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging ongoing sin prevent pride in our spiritual achievements?
2. What does the necessity of sin offerings even during dedication teach about human nature?
3. In what ways should consciousness of sin shape our approach to ministry and service?

Interlinear Text

שְׂעִיר	עֵז יִם	אֶחָד	לְחַטָּאת:
kid	of the goats	One	for a sin offering
H8163	H5795	H259	H2403

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