

Numbers 7:47

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 Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

Analysis

For a sacrifice of peace offerings (זֶבַח שְׁלָמִים, zevach shelamim)—The shelamim (from shalom, peace/wholeness) involved shared consumption: portions for God (burnt on altar), priests (breast and thigh), and offerer (remaining meat). This communal meal symbolized covenant fellowship. Eliasaph's offering—**two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year**—totaled thirteen animals, representing abundance and generosity.

The specific quantities weren't random but followed the prescribed pattern each tribal prince offered (7:13-83). The repetition across twelve tribes creates liturgical rhythm in Numbers 7, emphasizing Israel's unity in worship. Unlike burnt offerings (wholly consumed), peace offerings celebrated reconciliation through shared feasting.

Historical Context

This occurred at the tabernacle's dedication (1444 BC), immediately after its construction in Exodus 40. Eliasaph represented Gad's tribe (2:14). The twelve-day dedication ceremony (one prince per day) reflected both orderliness and equality—no tribe received preference. Each prince brought identical offerings, preventing competition or pride.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the 'peace offering' as a shared meal between God, priests, and offerer model the nature of true fellowship and reconciliation?
2. What does the identical offering from each tribe teach about equality in worship and the danger of competitive giving?
3. In what ways might the deliberate repetition in Numbers 7 (each tribe's offering described fully) challenge modern preferences for efficiency over liturgical thoroughness?

Interlinear Text

וְلֹא בְּחִ	בְּשָׂלְמִים	בְּקָר	שְׁנִים	אִילִם	קָמְשָׁה
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams	five
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352	H2568
בְּקָרִים	קָמְשָׁה	שְׁנִים	אִילִם	וְלֹא בְּ	בְּשָׂלְמִים
he goats	five	lambs	of the first	year	five
H6260	H2568	H3532	H1121	H8141	H2088
וְלֹא בְּ	אַלְיָסָף	בְּ	דָּעֵאלָ:	בְּ	קָרְבָּן
this was the offering	of Eliasaph	of the first	of Deuel	of	
H7133	H460	H1121	H1845		

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org