

Numbers 7:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One young bullock, one ram, one lamb of the first year, for a burnt offering:

Analysis

One young bullock, one ram, one lamb of the first year, for a burnt offering (עֹלָה, olah)—The burnt offering was wholly consumed on the altar, symbolizing complete surrender to God. The progression from **young bullock** (עֵגֶל, par ben-baqr) to **ram** (אֵיל, ayil) to **lamb of the first year** (כָּבֵשׂ בְּן-שָׁנָה, keves ben-shanah) represents varying degrees of value and maturity.

The bullock (most expensive, used by leaders, Leviticus 4:3) signified substantial sacrifice; the ram (adult sheep, Genesis 22:13) recalled Abraham's substitute; the year-old lamb (Passover animal, Exodus 12:5) pointed toward Christ, the Lamb slain before the world's foundation (Revelation 13:8). This threefold pattern in each tribe's offering created a comprehensive picture of substitutionary atonement.

Historical Context

Burnt offerings were the most ancient sacrifice, practiced since Abel (Genesis 4:4) and Noah (Genesis 8:20). The Hebrew olah ('that which ascends') described the smoke rising to God. These offerings at the tabernacle dedication (1444 BC) consecrated the sacrificial system that would operate until Christ's once-for-all sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10-14).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the burnt offering as 'wholly consumed' challenge partial or conditional surrender to God in your own life?
2. What theological significance do you see in the three-animal pattern (bullock, ram, lamb) pointing toward different aspects of Christ's sacrifice?
3. In what ways does understanding the burnt offering as 'that which ascends' inform your view of worship and prayer rising to God?

Interlinear Text

בָּשָׂר	אֶחָד	בְּנֵי	בָּקָר	אֶל	בְּקָרָה	אֶחָד	בָּשָׂר	אֶחָד
bullock	One	of the first	young	ram	One	lamb	One	
H6499	H259	H1121	H1241	H352	H259	H3532	H259	
בָּנֵי	שָׁנָת	וְ	לְעַלְהָ					
of the first	year		for a burnt offering					
H1121	H8141		H5930					

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