

Numbers 7:53

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 Elishama the son of Ammihud.

Analysis

For a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year—This concludes Elishama's (Ephraim's) offering with the shelamim meal. The abundance (13 animals total) contrasts with the singular burnt offering (3 animals) and sin offering (1 goat). Peace offerings involved communal feasting, symbolizing restored fellowship. The phrase **this was the offering of Elishama the son of Ammihud** personalizes the gift while conforming to the prescribed pattern.

The repeated pattern across all twelve tribes (7:12-83) creates liturgical rhythm—identical offerings prevent competition while allowing personal participation. Elishama's name appears three times in this section (7:48, 53), anchoring the offering in covenant identity. Worship unites prescribed form (identical offerings) with personal devotion (named givers).

Historical Context

The peace offering meal included the offerer's family and could last two days (Leviticus 7:15-16), creating extended fellowship. This reflected ancient Near Eastern covenant meals where shared food ratified agreements. The tabernacle dedication was essentially a twelve-day national feast, uniting Israel in joyful worship after the golden calf apostasy (Exodus 32).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the peace offering as a communal meal challenge individualistic approaches to worship and fellowship today?
2. What does the balance between prescribed form (identical offerings) and personal identity (named givers) teach about liturgy and authenticity in worship?
3. In what ways might the extended feasting (lasting up to two days per Leviticus 7:15-16) inform your understanding of Sabbath rest and celebratory worship?

Interlinear Text

וּלְזֶבַח	הַשְּׁלָמִים	בֶּקָר	שְׁנַיִם	אֵילִם	חֲמִשָּׁה
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams	five
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352	H2568
הֵם	חֲמִשָּׁה	שָׁנָה	בֶּן	כִּבְשֵׁי	חֲמִשָּׁה
he goats	five	year	of the first	lambs	five
H6260	H2568	H8141	H1121	H3532	H2568
זֶה	חֲמִשָּׁה	שָׁנָה	בֶּן	אֵלִישָׁמָע	קָרְבַּן
H2088	H2568	H8141	H1121	of Elishama	this was the offering
				H476	H7133
				of the first	of Ammihud
				H1121	H5989