

Numbers 7:59

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 Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur.

Analysis

For a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year—Gamaliel's shelamim concludes his offering with the covenant meal. The abundance (13 animals) invited extended fellowship—priests, offerer, and family shared the feast, celebrating reconciliation. The phrase **this was the offering of Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur** personalizes the prescribed pattern, uniting individual identity with corporate conformity.

Peace offerings created communal bonds—eating together ratified covenant relationship (Exodus 24:11). The NT equivalent appears in the Lord's Supper, where believers commune with Christ and each other through the bread and cup (1 Corinthians 10:16-17). The shelamim transformed worship from duty into joyful fellowship, anticipating the marriage supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern treaties were sealed with covenant meals, making peace offerings culturally recognizable as ratification ceremonies. The Sinai covenant itself concluded with elders eating before God (Exodus 24:9-11). These tabernacle dedication feasts (twelve consecutive days, one per tribe) reinforced Israel's covenant unity after the golden calf threatened national apostasy.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 – God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the peace offering as a shared meal between God, priests, and worshipers inform your understanding of the Lord's Supper as covenant fellowship?
2. What does the transformation of sacrifice (burnt and sin offerings) into feasting (peace offerings) teach about worship's ultimate goal being joyful communion with God?
3. In what ways might the extended, multi-day feasting in Numbers 7 challenge modern rushed or abbreviated approaches to corporate worship?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹא בְּחִזְקָה	בְּשָׂלְמִים	שְׁנִים	אִילִם	חִמְשָׁה
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352
five				H2568
זֶה חִמְשָׁה הַשְׁנִים הַבְּשָׂלְמִים יְמִינֵךְ יְמִינֵךְ	בְּנֵי כְּבָשׂ יְמִינֵךְ יְמִינֵךְ	בְּנֵי חִמְשָׁה הַשְׁנִים	בְּנֵי כְּבָשׂ יְמִינֵךְ יְמִינֵךְ	זֶה חִמְשָׁה הַשְׁנִים
he goats	five	lambs	of the first	year
H6260	H2568	H3532	H1121	H8141
				H2088
קָרְבָּן לְגִמְלִיא לְפָדָהצּוּר	בְּנֵי גִמְלִיא לְפָדָהצּוּר	בְּנֵי גִמְלִיא לְפָדָהצּוּר	בְּנֵי קָרְבָּן לְגִמְלִיא לְפָדָהצּוּר	קָרְבָּן
this was the offering	of Gamaliel	of the first	of Pedahzur	
H7133	H1583	H1121	H6301	

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