

# Numbers 7:65

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 Abidan the son of Gideoni.

## Analysis

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**And for a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year**—The shelamim (שְׁלָמִים, peace offerings) derives from shalom (שָׁלוֹם), meaning wholeness, completeness, and peace. Unlike burnt and sin offerings, the peace offering was partially eaten by the worshiper (Leviticus 7:15-18), making it a fellowship meal shared with God. The generous quantity—seventeen animals total—reflects abundant joy and celebration.

**This was the offering of Abidan the son of Gideoni**—Abidan ('my father is judge,' אִבְדָן) brought offerings preceding Dan and Naphtali. The peace offering crowned the sacrificial sequence: burnt offering (consecration), sin offering (atonement), peace offering (communion). Romans 5:1 captures this progression: 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.' Peace follows justification, never precedes it.

## Historical Context

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Peace offerings were voluntary expressions of thanksgiving, vow-fulfillment, or freewill devotion (Leviticus 7:11-16). The ritual involved laying hands on the animal (identifying with it), slaughter, blood manipulation by priests, burning fat on the altar, and communal eating. The worshiper's family could invite guests, making it a joyous, festive occasion—a rare opportunity for common Israelites to eat meat.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does the peace offering's fellowship meal aspect (eating with God) anticipate the Lord's Supper and eternal wedding feast (Revelation 19:9)?
2. What is the significance of the sacrificial order: consecration (burnt), atonement (sin), then communion (peace)—and how does this sequence reflect salvation's logic?
3. Why were peace offerings so abundant (seventeen animals) compared to single burnt and sin offerings?

## Interlinear Text

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וּלְזֶבַח	הַשְּׁלָמִים	בֶּקָר	שְׁנַיִם	אֵילִם	חֲמִשָּׁה
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams	five
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352	H2568
יְהוָה	חֲמִשָּׁה	שָׁנָה	בֶּן	כֶּבֶשׂ	חֲמִשָּׁה
he goats	five	year	of the first	lambs	five
H6260	H2568	H8141	H1121	H3532	H2568
זֶה	הָיָה	בֶּן	אֲבִידָן	קָרֵב	זֶה
		of the first	of Abidan	this was the offering	
		H1121	H27	H7133	
					גִּדְעוֹנִי
					of Gideoni
					H1441

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