

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

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 (שְׁלָמָה), 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,' אָבִיךְ) 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

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

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

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

וְلֹא בְּחִ	בְּשָׂלְמִים	בְּקָרְ	שְׁנִים	אִילְם	קָרְבָּנִים
And for a sacrifice	of peace offerings	oxen	two	rams	five
H2077	H8002	H1241	H8147	H352	H2568
בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים
he goats	five	lambs	of the first	year	five
H6260	H2568	H3532	H1121	H8141	H2568
בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים	בְּקָרְבָּנִים
זֶה קָרְבָּנִים	זֶה קָרְבָּנִים	זֶה קָרְבָּנִים	זֶה קָרְבָּנִים	זֶה קָרְבָּנִים	זֶה קָרְבָּנִים
this was the offering	of Abidan	of the first	of Gideon		
H7133	H27	H1121	H1441		

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