

Numbers 7:67

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His offering was one silver charger, the weight whereof was an hundred and thirty shekels, one silver bowl of seventy shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary; both of them full of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering:

Analysis

His offering was one silver charger, the weight whereof was an hundred and thirty shekels, one silver bowl of seventy shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary—Dan's offering precisely matched every previous tribe's, demonstrating God's requirement for equality in worship. The silver (kesef, קְسֵף) symbolizes redemption (Exodus 30:11-16), where each Israelite paid a half-shekel ransom for his soul. The 200-shekel total (130 + 70) represented significant wealth, yet remained identical across rich and poor tribes.

Both of them full of fine flour mingled with oil for a meat offering—Repetition throughout Numbers 7 emphasizes that God prescribes worship standards, not worshipers. Modern 'authenticity' that dismisses divine instruction for personal expression mirrors Cain's rejected offering (Genesis 4:3-5) and Nadab and Abihu's strange fire (Leviticus 10:1-2). True worship submits creativity to revelation, personal expression to biblical boundaries.

Historical Context

The tabernacle dedication offerings occurred shortly after the golden calf apostasy (Exodus 32) and the second giving of the law. The painstaking detail in Numbers 7—verse after verse of seemingly repetitive offerings—stands in stark contrast to

the chaotic self-worship of the golden calf episode. Ordered, prescribed worship restores what lawless worship destroys: God's presence, communal holiness, and spiritual safety.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the identical offering requirement (across wealthy and poor tribes) challenge modern consumer approaches to worship that cater to personal preferences?
2. What is the relationship between creative expression in worship and submission to biblically prescribed patterns?
3. How does Dan's orthodox offering here (contrasted with later idolatry at Dan) show that right external forms without heart faithfulness ultimately fail?

Interlinear Text

וְמִאָה	שְׁלַשׁ	יָם	אֶפְקָד	בָּשָׂר	קְרֵבָן	קְרֵבָן
whereof was an hundred	שְׁלַשׁ	יָם	אֶפְקָד	בָּשָׂר	קְרֵבָן	קְרֵבָן
H3967	H7970	H259	H3701	H7086	His offering	
					charger	
H133						
בְּשֶׁלֶשׁ	שְׁבַע	יָם	אֶפְקָד	בָּשָׂר	מִשְׁקָלָה	מִשְׁקָלָה
after the shekel	of seventy	יָם	אֶפְקָד	בָּשָׂר	מִשְׁקָלָה	מִשְׁקָלָה
H8255	H7657	H3701	H259	H4219	bowl	the weight
בְּלֹל	ס	לַת	מְלִיא	שְׁנִיחָה	בָּקָר	מִשְׁקָלָה
mingled	of fine flour	of them full	full	מְלִיא	שְׁנִיחָה	מִשְׁקָלָה
H1101	H5560	H4392	H8147	H6944	of the sanctuary	after the shekel
בָּשָׂר	לְמִנְחָה					
with oil	for a meat offering					
H8081	H4503					

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