

Numbers 7:69

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One young bullock, one ram, one lamb of the first year, for a burnt offering:

Analysis

One young bullock, one ram, one lamb of the first year, for a burnt offering—Dan's burnt offering ('olah, עֹלָה) maintained the pattern established by all previous tribes. The threefold sacrifice—bullock, ram, lamb—comprehensively covers the spectrum of acceptable burnt offerings listed in Leviticus 1:3-10. The 'olah expressed total devotion: the entire animal consumed by fire, ascending as 'a sweet savour unto the LORD' (Leviticus 1:9).

Remarkably, this is verse 69 of a chapter listing twelve identical tribal offering sequences. The very repetition that might seem tedious to readers demonstrates a profound theological truth: God never tires of receiving worship, never dismisses any tribe's offering as redundant, never says 'I've already received this from Judah, so Dan's offering adds nothing new.' Each tribe's worship was individually received, valued, and recorded for eternity. Psalm 50:9-13 clarifies that God doesn't need our sacrifices materially, yet delights in them relationally.

Historical Context

The burnt offering was the most ancient sacrifice, predating Mosaic law (Genesis 8:20, 22:2, Job 1:5). After Sinai, it became the twice-daily continual offering (Exodus 29:38-42), the foundation of Israel's sacrificial system. The morning and evening burnt offerings framed each day in consecration to God, teaching Israel that all of life—from waking to sleeping—belonged to Him.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does God's careful recording of each tribe's identical offering teach about His attentiveness to individual worship even when corporate patterns remain constant?
2. How does the burnt offering's total consumption challenge partial obedience or 'percentage Christianity' that retains parts of life from God's lordship?
3. Why does Scripture devote 89 verses to these repetitive offerings rather than summarizing them in one verse?

Interlinear Text

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|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| פָּר | אֶחָד | בֶּן | בָּקָר | אֶלֹ | אֶחָד | כֶּבֶשׂ | אֶחָד |
| bullock | One | of the first | young | ram | One | lamb | One |
| H6499 | H259 | H1121 | H1241 | H352 | H259 | H3532 | H259 |
| בֶּן | שָׁנָה | לְעֹלָה: | | | | | |
| of the first | year | for a burnt offering | | | | | |
| H1121 | H8141 | H5930 | | | | | |

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