

# Numbers 7:71

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 Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

## 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 abundant shelamim (שלמים, peace offerings) climaxes the sacrificial pattern: seventeen animals offered in thanksgiving and fellowship. The peace offering's unique characteristic was the communal meal—worshippers ate portions of the sacrifice in God's presence (Leviticus 7:15-18), symbolizing reconciliation and shared fellowship. The abundant quantity (especially compared to single burnt and sin offerings) reflects lavish celebration.

**This was the offering of Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai**—Dan's prince, whose very name ('my brother is help') and patronymic ('my kinsman is Shaddai/Almighty') anchor identity in covenantal relationship and divine sufficiency. The progression from burnt offering (consecration) through sin offering (atonement) to peace offering (communion) reflects salvation's logical sequence: we cannot have peace with God without atonement, and atonement is meaningless without whole-life consecration. Romans 5:1 captures this: 'Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.'

## Historical Context

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Peace offerings included three types: thanksgiving offerings (spontaneous gratitude), vow offerings (fulfilling promises to God), and freewill offerings (voluntary devotion). Leviticus 7:11-16 specified time limits for eating the sacrifice:

thanksgiving offerings must be consumed the same day, vow and freewill offerings allowed two days. Violating these times resulted in defilement, teaching that even good things (worship) become corrupt when we disregard God's boundaries.

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does the peace offering's communal meal aspect point forward to the Lord's Supper and the wedding feast of the Lamb (Revelation 19:9)?
2. What does the sacrificial sequence (burnt, sin, peace) teach about the order of salvation—and why can't this order be rearranged?
3. Why did peace offerings involve such abundance (seventeen animals) compared to the 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
זֶה	חֲמִשָּׁה	שָׁנָה	בֶּן	כֶּבֶשׂ	חֲמִשָּׁה
he goats	five	lambs	of the first	year	five
H6260	H2568	H3532	H1121	H8141	H2568
זֶה הָיָה	הַשְּׁלָמִים	אֲחִיעֶזֶר	בֶּן	אֲמִישַׁדַּי	הַשְּׁלָמִים
this was the offering	of Ahiezer	of the first	of Ammishaddai		
H7133	H295	H1121	H5996		