

Numbers 7:75

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 (אֶחָד בֶּן־בָּקָר אֶחָד אֵיל אֶחָד בֶּן־בָּקָר אֵיל אֶחָד כֶּבֶשׂ־אֶחָד, par echad ben-baqar ayil echad keves-echad)—The burnt offering (olah, עֹלָה, "that which ascends") was wholly consumed on the altar, representing complete consecration to God. The bullock symbolizes strength in service, the ram represents substitutionary atonement (Genesis 22:13), and the **lamb of the first year** (כֶּבֶשׂ בֶּן־שָׁנָה, keves ben-shanah) prefigures Christ, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

The threefold sacrifice points to the fullness of Christ's offering: His strength (bullock), His willing substitution (ram), and His innocence (firstling lamb). All ascend as "a sweet savour unto the LORD" (Leviticus 1:9), accepted only through blood atonement.

Historical Context

Burnt offerings originated in Genesis (8:20, 22:13) and were codified in Leviticus 1. Unlike peace offerings (partially eaten), the entire animal was consumed by fire, symbolizing total dedication. The Mosaic economy required constant repetition; Christ's single offering perfected worship forever (Hebrews 10:10-14).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does the complete consumption of the burnt offering challenge half-hearted, compartmentalized discipleship?
2. What does the progression from bullock (strength) to ram (substitution) to lamb (innocence) reveal about the multifaceted nature of Christ's atonement?
3. Why did God require the repetition of identical offerings from each tribe when one offering could have sufficed mathematically?

Interlinear Text

פֶּרֶךְ	אֶחָד	בֶּן	בָּקָר	אֶל	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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