

Numbers 7:78

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, prince of the children of Naphtali, offered:

Analysis

On the twelfth day Ahira the son of Enan, prince of the children of Naphtali, offered (בְּיוֹם שְׁנַיִם אֶשֶׁר יוֹם, beyom sheneym asar yom)—Naphtali, positioned last in the camp order (Numbers 2:29-31), brings the final tribal offering. The twelfth day completes the cycle, as twelve represents governmental perfection and divine order (twelve tribes, twelve apostles, Revelation's twelve gates). Ahira's name means "my brother is evil" or "brother of harm," yet he serves as a consecrated leader—demonstrating that God's calling transcends flawed lineage.

Naphtali, meaning "my wrestling," was born to Rachel through her handmaid Bilhah after desperate struggle (Genesis 30:8). The tribe's position in the rear guard (Numbers 10:27) made them vulnerable, yet their offering is identical in value to Judah's, the leading tribe. No hierarchy in worth exists among God's people when approaching His altar.

Historical Context

Naphtali occupied the northernmost territory in Israel's later settlement (Joshua 19:32-39). Despite being listed last in the camp order, their contribution to the tabernacle dedication was equal to all others, demonstrating covenantal equality. Ahira led 53,400 men according to the wilderness census (Numbers 1:43).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Ahira's flawed name ('brother of harm') yet faithful service illustrate the doctrine of redemption from sinful heritage?
2. What does Naphtali's equal offering despite their rear-guard position teach about spiritual equality versus worldly hierarchy?
3. Why might God have ordered the tribal offerings sequentially over twelve days rather than simultaneously on one day?

Interlinear Text

יָוֹם	שְׁנֵי יָמִים	עָשָׂר	יָוֹם	נָשִׁיאַ	בְּן	נַפְתָּלִי
day	H8147	On the twelfth	day	prince	of the children	of Naphtali
H3117		H6240	H3117	H5387	H1121	H5321
אַחִירָא	בְּן	עֵינָן:				
Ahira	of the children	of Enan				
H299	H1121	H5881				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 1:15 (Parallel theme): Of Naphtali; Ahira the son of Enan.

Numbers 2:29 (Parallel theme): Then the tribe of Naphtali: and the captain of the children of Naphtali shall be Ahira the son of Enan.

