

Numbers 7:83

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 Ahira the son of Enan.

Analysis

For a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen, five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year: this was the offering of Ahira the son of Enan (זֶבֶחַ שְׁלָמִים, zevach hashelamim)—The peace offering (shelamim, from shalom) celebrates restored fellowship. Unlike burnt offerings (wholly consumed) or sin offerings (for priests), portions of the peace offering were eaten by the worshiper, symbolizing covenant communion with God.

The abundance—two oxen, five rams, five goats, five lambs—demonstrates lavish gratitude. The number five represents grace; the total of seventeen animals suggests completeness in worship. Ahira's offering, though last chronologically, is equal in value and acceptance. This concludes the twelve-tribe dedication with the same joy as it began, teaching that God's presence makes the last equal to the first (Matthew 20:16).

Historical Context

Peace offerings (Leviticus 3, 7:11-21) included thanksgiving, vow, and freewill categories. Portions were burned on the altar (God's portion), given to priests (Aaron's sons), and eaten by the offerer and family. This three-way sharing symbolized covenant fellowship—God, mediator, and worshiper dining together.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the fellowship meal aspect of peace offerings enrich our understanding of the Lord's Supper as covenant communion?
2. What does the greater abundance of peace offerings (versus one sin offering) reveal about God's desire for relationship over transaction?
3. Why might Naphtali's offering be recorded with as much detail as Judah's, and what does this teach about God's impartiality?

Interlinear Text

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| וְلֹא בְּחִ | בְּשָׁלְמִים | בְּקָר | שְׁנִים | אַיִל מ | חִמֶּשׁ ה |
| And for a sacrifice | of peace offerings | oxen | two | rams | five |
| H2077 | H8002 | H1241 | H8147 | H352 | H2568 |
| בְּקָר יְמִם חִמֶּשׁ ה עַתְּדִים | בְּקָר ה שְׁנִים ה | בְּקָר ה שְׁנִים ה | בְּקָר ה חִמֶּשׁ ה | בְּקָר ה חִמֶּשׁ ה | בְּקָר ה חִמֶּשׁ ה |
| he goats | five | lambs | of the first | year | five |
| H6260 | H2568 | H3532 | H1121 | H8141 | H2088 |
| עִזִּים קָרְבָּן אֲחִיכָּע מְלֵא | עִזִּים אֲחִיכָּע מְלֵא |
| this was the offering | of Ahira | of the first | of Enan | of Enan | of Enan |
| H7133 | H299 | H1121 | H5881 | | |

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