

Numbers 7:87

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

All the oxen for the burnt offering were twelve bullocks, the rams twelve, the lambs of the first year twelve, with their meat offering: and the kids of the goats for sin offering twelve.

Analysis

All the oxen for the burnt offering were twelve bullocks, the rams twelve, the lambs of the first year twelve, with their meat offering: and the kids of the goats for sin offering twelve (כל-הבקר לעלה שנים עשר פרים) —The twelve-fold repetition emphasizes completeness: twelve bullocks (strength), twelve rams (substitution), twelve lambs (innocence), twelve goats (sin-bearing). Each category totals twelve, representing all Israel united in consecrated worship.

The burnt offerings (olah) ascend wholly to God, symbolizing total surrender. Accompanying **meat offerings** (מנחה, minchah)—fine flour mixed with oil—represent the fruit of human labor consecrated through divine enablement (the oil of the Spirit). The sin offerings acknowledge that even in joyful dedication, atonement is necessary. This dual emphasis—consecration and atonement—prefigures Christ's work: both our substitute (sin offering) and our sanctification (burnt offering, 1 Corinthians 1:30).

Historical Context

The burnt offering was the most frequent sacrifice in Israel's worship (Leviticus 1), offered twice daily (Exodus 29:38-42) plus on special occasions. The complete consumption by fire distinguished it from peace offerings. The grain offering

always accompanied burnt offerings, symbolizing the inseparability of consecration and service.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the combination of burnt offerings (consecration) and sin offerings (atonement) teach about the dual nature of Christ's work?
2. How does the twelve-fold repetition across all categories demonstrate the unity of Israel's worship despite tribal diversity?
3. Why might the summary separate burnt offerings from peace offerings, and what theological distinction does this preserve?

Interlinear Text

אִיל	מָ	פָּר	יָמָם	עַשְׂרֵה	שְׁנַיִם	כָּל
All	the	oxen	for	the	burnt	offering
H3605		H1241		H5930		
H6240				H8147		
bullocks					the	rams
					H352	

עַשְׂרֵה	שְׁנַיִם	שְׁנַיִם	עַשְׂרֵה	שְׁנַיִם	שְׁנַיִם
twelve			twelve		
H6240			H6240		
the	lambs	of	the	first	year
H8147			H3532		H1121
					H8141
					H8147

עַשְׂרֵה	שְׁנַיִם	עַזְיִם	וְשָׂעִיר	וְמִנְחָת	מִ
twelve					
H6240					
with	their	meat	offering	and	the
H4503			H8163		H5795

לְחַטָּאת:
for sin offering

H2403

