

# 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** (כָּל־הַבָּקָר לְעֹלָה שְׁנַיִם עָשָׂר פָּרִים, kol-habaqar la'olah sheneim asar parim)—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** (מִנְחָה, 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

---

כָּל H3605	הַבָּקָר H1241	לְעֹלָה H5930	שְׁנֵי יָמִים H8147	עֶשְׂרִים H6240	פָּרִים H6499	אֵילִם H352
	<b>All the oxen</b>	<b>for the burnt offering</b>	<b>twelve</b>		<b>bullocks</b>	<b>the rams</b>
שְׁנֵי יָמִים H8147	עֶשְׂרִים H6240	כִּבְשֵׁי יָמִים H3532	בְּנֵי H1121	שָׁנָה H8141	שְׁנֵי יָמִים H8147	עֶשְׂרִים H6240
	<b>twelve</b>	<b>the lambs</b>	<b>of the first</b>	<b>year</b>	<b>twelve</b>	
וּמִנְחָתָם H4503	וּשְׁעִירֵי H8163	עִזֵּי יָמִים H5795	עֶשְׂרִים H8147	שְׁנֵי יָמִים H6240		
	<b>with their meat offering</b>	<b>and the kids</b>	<b>of the goats</b>	<b>twelve</b>		
לְחַטָּאת: H2403						
<b>for sin offering</b>						

