

Numbers 7:88

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all the oxen for the sacrifice of the peace offerings were twenty and four bullocks, the rams sixty, the he goats sixty, the lambs of the first year sixty. This was the dedication of the altar, after that it was anointed.

Analysis

All the oxen for the sacrifice of the peace offerings were twenty and four bullocks, the rams sixty, the he goats sixty, the lambs of the first year sixty (וְכָל־הַבָּקָר זֶבַח הַשְּׁלָמִים עֶשְׂרִים וָאַרְבָּעָה פָּרִים, kol-habaqar zevach hashelamim esrim ve'arba'ah parim)—The peace offering totals dwarf the burnt and sin offerings: 24 oxen, 60 rams, 60 goats, 60 lambs (204 total animals). This abundance demonstrates that fellowship with God is the goal and joy of worship, not mere duty.

This was the dedication of the altar, after that it was anointed (זֹאת חֲנֻכַּת) (הַמִּזְבֵּחַ אַחֲרֵי הַמָּשַׁח אֹתוֹ)—The dedication (chanukkah) celebrates the altar's sanctification. The sacrifices don't sanctify the altar; the anointing does. The offerings express gratitude for God's condescension to dwell among His people. The 24 oxen recall the 24 priestly courses and 24 elders before God's throne (Revelation 4:4), while the sixty of each category (60 + 60 + 60 = 180) symbolizes completeness multiplied.

Historical Context

Peace offerings were unique in that portions were eaten by the worshiper and family (Leviticus 7:11-21), symbolizing covenant fellowship. The abundance of

peace offerings compared to burnt/sin offerings reflects God's desire for relationship over transaction. The dedication concluded the tabernacle's consecration (Exodus 40, Leviticus 8-9).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. Why are peace offerings so much more abundant than burnt or sin offerings, and what does this reveal about God's priorities?
2. How does the declaration that the dedication occurred 'after it was anointed' emphasize that the altar's sanctity comes from God, not human offering?
3. What might the numbers 24 (oxen) and 60 (rams, goats, lambs) symbolize, especially given their appearance elsewhere in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------|------------|
| וְכָל ל | בָּקָר רָא | זֶבַח | הַשְּׁלָמִים | עֲשָׂרָה יָמִים | | |
| H3605 | And all the oxen | for the sacrifice | of the peace offerings | were twenty | | |
| | H1241 | H2077 | H8002 | H6242 | | |
| וְאַרְבָּעָה | פָּרִים | אֵילִם | שִׁשִּׁים | עֲתִדִּים | שִׁשִּׁים | כִּבְשִׂים |
| and four | bullocks | the rams | sixty | the he goats | sixty | the lambs |
| H702 | H6499 | H352 | H8346 | H6260 | H8346 | H3532 |
| בְּנֵי | שָׁנָה | שִׁשִּׁים יָמִים | זֶה אֵת | הַמִּזְבֵּחַ | | |
| of the first | year | sixty | This was the dedication | of the altar | | |
| | H1121 | H8141 | H2063 | H2598 | H4196 | |
| אַחֲרָי | הִמָּשָׁח | אֵתוֹ: | | | | |
| after | that it was anointed | | | | | |
| H310 | H4886 | H853 | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 7:1 (Sacrifice): And it came to pass on the day that Moses had fully set up the tabernacle, and had anointed it, and sanctified it, and all the instruments thereof, both the altar and all the vessels thereof, and had anointed them, and sanctified them;

Numbers 7:10 (Sacrifice): And the princes offered for dedicating of the altar in the day that it was anointed, even the princes offered their offering before the altar.

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