

Offerings from the Twelve Tribes of Israel – Part 5 (12 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 7:78–89

Twelfth Day Offering—Naphtali

78 On the twelfth day Ahira son of Enan, leader of the descendants of Naphtali:

79 his offering *was* one silver plate—its weight one hundred and thirty *shekels*—*and* one silver bowl for drinking *weighing* seventy shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, both of them filled *with* finely milled flour mixed with oil as a grain offering;

80 one golden dish weighing ten shekels filled *with* incense;

81 one young bull, one ram, a male lamb in its first year as a burnt offering;

82 one he-goat as a sin offering;

83 and for the sacrifice of the fellowship offering, two cattle, five rams, five he-goats, *and* five male lambs in their first year. This *was* the offering of Ahira son of Enan.

Summary

84 This *was* the dedication of the altar on *the* day of anointing it, from the leaders of Israel: twelve silver plates, twelve silver bowls for drinking wine, twelve golden dishes;

85 each plate of silver *weighed* one hundred and thirty *shekels*, and each bowl for drinking seventy, all the silver of the vessels two thousand four hundred *shekels*, according to the sanctuary shekel;

86 the twelve golden dishes filled *with* incense, each dish *weighing* ten shekels according to the sanctuary shekel, all the gold of the dishes one hundred and twenty;

87 all the cattle for the burnt offering twelve bulls, twelve rams, twelve male lambs in their first year, and their grain offering; and twelve he-goats as a sin offering;

88 and all the cattle of the sacrifice of the fellowship offering twenty-four bulls, sixty rams, sixty he-goats, sixty male lambs in their first year. These *were* the dedication of the altar after its anointing.

God Now Speaks from the Mercy Seat

89 And when Moses came to the tent of assembly to speak with him, he would hear the voice speaking to him from the atonement cover, which *is* on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim, and he would speak to him.

Clarification on the Direction of the Lamps (c. 12 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 8:1–4

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

2 “Speak to Aaron, and say to him: ‘When you are setting up the lamps, the seven lamps will give light in front of the face of the lampstand.’”

3 And Aaron did so; he set up the lampstand in front of the face of its lamps, just as Yahweh commanded Moses.

4 And this *is* how the lampstand was made, a hammered-work of gold; from its base up to its blossom, it *was* hammered-work according to the pattern that Yahweh showed Moses; so he made the lampstand.

Appointment of the Levites for Service (c. 12 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 8:5–26

Instructions for Consecration Ceremony

5 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

6 “Take the Levites from the midst of the Israelites and purify them.

7 So you will do to them, to purify them: sprinkle on them waters of purification, and they will shave their whole body and wash their garments.

8 And they will take a young bull and its grain offering of finely milled flour mixed with oil, and you will take a second young bull as a sin offering.

9 You will bring the Levites before the tent of assembly, and you will summon the entire community of the Israelites.

10 And you will bring the Levites before Yahweh, and the Israelites will lay their hands on the Levites,

11 and Aaron will offer the Levites *as* a wave offering before Yahweh from the Israelites, and they will do the work of Yahweh.

12 And the Levites will lay their hands on the head of the one bull and offer *it* as a sin offering and the other one as a burnt offering to Yahweh, to make atonement for the Levites.

13 And you will present the Levites before Aaron and before his sons, and he will offer them *as* a wave offering to Yahweh.

14 “And you will separate the Levites from the midst of the Israelites, and the Levites will be for me.

Substitutionary Role of the Levites

15 And after this the Levites will come to serve *at* the tent of assembly, and you will purify them, and you will offer them *as* a wave

offering.

16 For they *are* given to me exclusively from the midst of the Israelites. I have taken them for myself in place of *the* firstborn of every womb, every firstborn from the Israelites.

17 For every firstborn among the Israelites *is* mine, both humankind and animal. On the day I destroyed every firstborn in the land of Egypt I consecrated them to me,

18 and I have taken the Levites in the place of every firstborn among the Israelites.

19 And I have given the Levites; they are given to Aaron and his sons from the midst of the Israelites to do the work of the Israelites in the tent of the assembly and to make atonement for the Israelites, so a plague will not be among the Israelites when the Israelites come near the sanctuary.”

Consecration of the Levites

20 And Moses and Aaron and the entire community of the Israelites did to the Levites; everything that Yahweh commanded Moses concerning the Levites, the Israelites did to them.

21 And the Levites purified themselves, and they washed their garments, and Aaron offered them *as* a wave offering before Yahweh; and Aaron made atonement for them to purify them.

22 After this the Levites came to do their work in the tent of assembly before Aaron and his sons. Just as Yahweh commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did to them.

Service and Retirement Ages

23 Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

24 “This *is* what is for the Levites: those twenty-five years old and above will come to help *with the* service in the work of the tent of assembly;

25 and those fifty years old will return from the service of the work and will serve no longer.

26 They can attend their brothers in the tent of assembly to keep *their* responsibilities, but they will not do work. This is what you will do concerning the Levites and their responsibilities.”

The Second Passover (14 Nisan [April] 1445 BC)

Numbers 9:1–14

Israel's Second Passover

1 Yahweh spoke to Moses in the desert of Sinai, in the second year after they came out from the land of Egypt, in the first month, saying,

2 “Let the Israelites observe the Passover at its appointed time.

3 On the fourteenth day of this month at twilight you will perform it at its appointed time according to all its decrees; and according to all its stipulations you will observe it.”

4 So Moses spoke to the Israelites to observe the Passover.

5 And they observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at twilight in the desert of Sinai. According to all that Yahweh commanded Moses, thus the Israelites did.

Provision for Being Unclean at Passover (celebrate on the 14th of the 2nd month)

6 And it happened, men who were unclean by a dead person were not able to perform the Passover on that day. And they came before Moses and Aaron on that day.

7 And those men said to him, “*Although we are* unclean by a dead person, why are we hindered from presenting the offering of Yahweh at its appointed time in the midst of the Israelites?”

8 Moses said to them, “Stay. I will hear what Yahweh commands to you.”

9 And Yahweh spoke to Moses, saying,

10 “Speak to the Israelites, saying, ‘Each man that is unclean by a dead person or *is* on a far journey, you or your descendants, he will observe the Passover of Yahweh.

11 On the second month on the fourteenth day at twilight they will observe it; they will eat it with unleavened bread and bitter plants.

12 They will leave none of it until morning, and they will not break a bone in it; they will observe it according to every decree of the Passover.

13 But the man who *is* clean and not on a journey, and he fails to observe the Passover, that person will be cut off from the people because he did not present the offering of Yahweh on its appointed time. That man will bear his guilt.

14 If an alien dwells with you he will observe the Passover of Yahweh according to the decree of the Passover and according to its stipulation; thus you will have one decree for you, for the alien and for the native of the land.”