

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 Naphtalites, presented an offering.

79 His offering was one silver platter weighing 130 shekels and one silver sprinkling bowl weighing 70 shekels, both according to the sanctuary shekel, each of them full of fine flour mixed with olive oil as a grain offering;

80 one gold pan weighing 10 shekels;

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

82 one male goat for a purification offering;

83 and for the sacrifice of peace offerings: two bulls, five rams, five male goats, and five lambs in their first year. This was the offering of Ahira son of Enan.

Summary

84 This was the dedication for the altar from the leaders of Israel, when it was anointed: twelve silver platters, twelve silver sprinkling bowls, and twelve gold pans.

85 Each silver platter weighed 130 shekels, and each silver sprinkling bowl weighed 70 shekels. All the silver of the vessels weighed 2,400 shekels, according to the sanctuary shekel.

86 The twelve gold pans full of incense weighed 10 shekels each, according to the sanctuary shekel; all the gold of the pans weighed 120 shekels.

87 All the animals for the burnt offering were 12 young bulls, 12 rams, 12 male lambs in their first year, with their grain offering, and 12 male goats for a purification offering.

88 All the animals for the sacrifice for the peace offering were 24 young bulls, 60 rams, 60 male goats, and 60 lambs in their first year. These were the dedication offerings for the altar after it was anointed.

God Now Speaks from the Mercy Seat

89 Now when Moses went into the tent of meeting to speak with the LORD, he heard the voice speaking to him from above the atonement lid that was on the ark of the testimony, from between the two cherubim. Thus he spoke to him.

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

Numbers 8:1–4

1 The LORD spoke to Moses:

2 “Speak to Aaron and tell him, ‘When you set up the lamps, the seven lamps are to give light in front of the lampstand.’”

3 And Aaron did so; he set up the lamps to face toward the front of the lampstand, as the LORD commanded Moses.

4 This is how the lampstand was made: It was beaten work in gold; from its shaft to its flowers it was beaten work. According to the pattern which the LORD had shown 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 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

6 “Take the Levites from among the Israelites and purify them.

7 And do this to them to purify them: Sprinkle water of purification on them; then have them shave all their body and wash their clothes, and so purify themselves.

8 Then they are to take a young bull with its grain offering of fine flour mixed with olive oil; and you are to take a second young bull for a purification offering.

9 You are to bring the Levites before the tent of meeting and assemble the entire community of the Israelites.

10 Then you are to bring the Levites before the LORD, and the Israelites are to lay their hands on the Levites;

11 and Aaron is to offer the Levites before the LORD as a wave offering from the Israelites, that they may do the work of the LORD.

12 When the Levites lay their hands on the heads of the bulls, offer the one for a purification offering and the other for a whole burnt offering to the LORD, to make atonement for the Levites.

13 You are to have the Levites stand before Aaron and his sons, and then offer them as a wave offering to the LORD.

14 And so you are to separate the Levites from among the Israelites, and the Levites will be mine.

Substitutionary Role of the Levites

15 “After this, the Levites will go in to do the work of the tent of meeting. So you must cleanse them and offer them like a wave offering.

16 For they are entirely given to me from among the Israelites. I have taken them for myself instead of all who open the womb, the

firstborn sons of all the Israelites.

17 For all the firstborn males among the Israelites are mine, both humans and animals; when I destroyed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I set them apart for myself.

18 So I have taken the Levites instead of all the firstborn sons among the Israelites.

19 I have given the Levites as a gift to Aaron and his sons from among the Israelites, to do the work for the Israelites in the tent of meeting, and to make atonement for the Israelites, so there will be no plague among the Israelites when the Israelites come near the sanctuary.”

Consecration of the Levites

20 So Moses and Aaron and the entire community of the Israelites did this with the Levites. According to all that the LORD commanded Moses concerning the Levites, this is what the Israelites did with them.

21 The Levites purified themselves and washed their clothing; then Aaron presented them like a wave offering before the LORD, and Aaron made atonement for them to purify them.

22 After this, the Levites went in to do their work in the tent of meeting before Aaron and before his sons. As the LORD had commanded Moses concerning the Levites, so they did.

Service and Retirement Ages

23 Then the LORD spoke to Moses:

24 “This is what pertains to the Levites: At the age of twenty-five years and upward one may begin to join the company in the work of the tent of meeting,

25 and at the age of fifty years they must retire from performing the work and may no longer work.

26 They may assist their colleagues in the tent of meeting, to attend to needs, but they must do no work. This is the way you must establish the Levites regarding their duties.”

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

Numbers 9:1–14

Israel's Second Passover

1 The LORD spoke to Moses in the wilderness of Sinai, in the first month of the second year after they had come out of the land of Egypt:

2 “The Israelites are to observe the Passover at its appointed time.

3 In the fourteenth day of this month, at twilight, you are to observe it at its appointed time; you must keep it in accordance with all its statutes and all its customs.”

4 So Moses instructed the Israelites to observe the Passover.

5 And they observed the Passover on the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight in the wilderness of Sinai; in accordance with all that the LORD had commanded Moses, so the Israelites did.

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

6 It happened that some men who were ceremonially defiled by the dead body of a man could not keep the Passover on that day, so they came before Moses and before Aaron on that day.

7 And those men said to him, “We are ceremonially defiled by the dead body of a man; why are we kept back from offering the LORD’s offering at its appointed time among the Israelites?”

8 So Moses said to them, “Remain here and I will hear what the LORD will command concerning you.”

9 The LORD spoke to Moses:

10 “Tell the Israelites, ‘If any of you or of your posterity become ceremonially defiled by touching a dead body, or are on a journey far away, then he may observe the Passover to the LORD.

11 They may observe it on the fourteenth day of the second month at twilight; they are to eat it with bread made without yeast and with bitter herbs.

12 They must not leave any of it until morning, nor break any of its bones; they must observe it in accordance with every statute of the Passover.

13 But the man who is ceremonially clean, and was not on a journey, and fails to keep the Passover, that person must be cut off from his people. Because he did not bring the LORD’s offering at its appointed time, that man must bear his sin.

14 If a resident foreigner lives among you and wants to keep the Passover to the LORD, he must do so according to the statute of the Passover, and according to its custom. You must have the same statute for the resident foreigner and for the one who was born in the land.”