

March 9 Answers

- 1) Another step in preparing to enter Canaan involved documenting all the **sacrifices** God required the priests to offer for the nation during the year. Each year the priests would sacrifice 113 bulls, 32 rams, 31 goats and 1,086 lambs. They also offered more than a ton of flour and a thousand bottles of oil and wine. Clearly Israel was destined to be a prosperous agricultural community! The daily burnt offerings represented daily fellowship between God and the people, while the weekly and monthly offerings provided times of richer fellowship. God's purpose in requiring these sacrifices was to remind the people that the key to the successful **conquest** of Canaan and prosperous **living** within the promised land was continual **fellowship** with Him. This teaches us that **worship** and **prayer** and **Bible** reading need to be our top priorities, for they facilitate our daily fellowship with God. God also gave Israel laws concerning vows. A vow was a solemn **promise** to God in which a person committed themselves to perform some action in the future. God took vows seriously, and once made, they could not be undone without **consequence**. Only unmarried daughters and married women could have their vows annulled by their fathers or husbands. This teaches us that promises to God are not to be made **lightly**, and that we should be careful to **keep** our word. Jesus later rebuked the Jews for breaking their word and then excusing themselves because of the **wording** of their vow (Matt 5:33–37). The final verdict: "Let your 'yes' be yes and your 'no' be no" (James 5:12).