

This seventh month was a month of festivities. It contains the Civil New Year on the first day of the month (the religious year started in Aviv in the spring), the Day of Atonement on the 10th day of the month, not a time of rejoicing but a solemn remembrance of sin. The Feast of Tabernacles from the 15th day until the 21st day, a total of seven days followed on the 22nd day of Tishri by another day of holy convocation. There are four high sabbaths then in this month more than any other. Taking on the regular sabbaths there were either 5, 7 or 9 sabbaths once each, every seven years, or 8 sabbaths four times every seven years, that is a lot of sabbaths. It was the holiday period after the harvest was taken in and before the winter set in.

There is an emphasis on the sheer number of offerings made, more than the usual daily sacrifice of burnt offerings which are doubled up on the regular sabbath. There are a total of 189 additional offerings over those seven days making it 205 in total.

70 bullocks burnt offering

14 rams burnt offering

98 lambs burnt offering

7 goats sin offering

The 70 bullocks could have been offered at a fixed rate each day, ten at a time, but they were not to be sacrificed in this way, but on a decreasing rate of one less every day down from thirteen until seven on the last day. The total sum of 70 remains the same which may be indicative of the seventy nations from Noah who were permitted to fill the earth from his descendants. If this is so then the seventy bullocks reflect the universal nature of the feast of tabernacles which was destined not just to be kept by Israel but as Zechariah records in 14v16, all nations who are left after the war of insurrection against the imposition of the divine theocracy.

That they decline speaks of the reduction of the need for sacrifice overtime as at the end of the millennial period when Christ gives up his crown back to God the Father who empowered him to rule, there will be no more mortals because there will be no more sin, the last rebels having been granted their wages in the second death. In addition, the interim teaching is that the ability of the flesh to keep dedicating themselves overtime wanes, it is part of the flesh, even Jesus if he had grown old would have succumbed to the corruption of the flesh as mortality reaped its physical price. Behaviourally as well mankind fails to keep up the fervour of the intensity of the smitten heart. With the exception of Jesus, we all lose enthusiasm over time and the distractions of the old man sap our strength and determination.

The number of bullocks would be 14 if the usual offerings were multiplied up in the same way as the rams and lambs were increased, there is a marked increase in their number, there were already extra lambs over the bullocks and rams as given in the other days of Holy Convocation. If seven signifying perfection or completeness was paramount, then there could have been 49 bullocks offered but that is not the case. The Feast of tabernacles commemorates the sojourning of Israel, a temporary transitional state, which looks back at their origins and the journey which they took to get there.

Why two rams on each day not just one? On other days there was one bullock and one ram, but the dual aspect may reflect the duality present in mankind, male and female, Jew and gentile, rich and poor, young and old, and in the kingdom age, mortal and immortal. Or it could reflect the dual aspect of the role of Christ and the saints as both Kings and Priests of that New Age. The aspects of rulership now must be given up and sacrificed for the hope of future responsibility when the dedication of self the burnt sacrifice was supposed to represent, was made by the nation.

There were 14 lambs in number. These burnt offerings being of the first year and without spot represent the promise of new potential cut off and sacrificed, in the understanding that this symbolised the dedication necessary to serve God. We do not serve God by putting up your hand at a revivalist rally, but by committing your life to the serve of the Father and the Son. Do this early where you can, do not wait until you have exhausted your playbook and committed every abomination under heaven before a so-called death bed repentance, as the Roman Emperor Constantine deliberately did.

All these offerings were accompanied by meat offerings and drink offerings. These were the reminder that the initial dedication of the burnt offering, is not enough, that if it stops there, there it is lacking and a failure in the realisation of the potential which God has granted to His creation, mankind made in the image of the Elohim, having divine potential to become His sons and daughters. There was still more to be done after the inspired thought to wholly consume yourself in service to God.

Goats were offered for sin *“when a ruler had sinned”* Leviticus 4v22. *“He shall bring his offering a kid of the goats a male without blemish”*. Jesus was not that ruler, as he never sinned, but the nation was supposed to be a nation of kings and priests to the uncircumcised. Sin was still present as the descendants of Adam live under the condemnation of the flesh even in the Kingdom Age as its final eradication will not be accomplished until the end of the thousand years.

Only seven were to be offered one each day. This smaller number represents the pervading and nagging presence of sin, which even in the midst of such commitment and dedication towards God cannot be ignored. It underpins the human existence and as it was offered last would linger in the consciousness after the fervour and excitement dissipates. An epitaph to the reality of the situation.

All these were to be offered to God in accordance with His stated wish, and this teaches us of Him. They were offered *“beside your vows and your freewill offerings for your burnt offerings and for your meat offerings and for your drink offerings and for your peace offerings”*. All point to Christ as the One Great Offering of all time, but the multiplicity of other sacrifices speaks of the plural sacrifices that are expressly required to purify the heavenlies, Hebrews 9v23 *“It was necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these”*. The sacrifices of praise and of a broken heart which the believers are still required to offer to God in testimony of their service in love.

Moses faithfully recounted this to his people. We should do the same today.