



The next few chapters of the book of Numbers are a reminder of Moses to the new generation of Israelites of the structure of the regular service and worship they were all to take part in as a nation. In this 28th chapter, they were reminded of

- Daily offerings, Weekly offerings and Monthly offerings, then the annual feasts of Passover and First fruits
- Chapter 29 describes three further feasts – Blowing of Trumpets, Day of Atonement and Feast of Tabernacles
- Chapter 30 relates how vows were to be made.

It can be seen by this very quick overview, that the worship and service at the Tabernacle, was to be a central part of the life of every person in the congregation. It was their calendar; it involved everyone in some way.

The point of the Tabernacle being located in the middle of all the tents, was that it was to be the centre piece of everyone's lives. No matter where you stood in the congregation, wherever your tent was pitched, you would see the smoke rising from the sacrifices in the tabernacle. No matter what time of day it was, you would also be able to smell the offerings, see that smoke, and see people making their way to the place where God chose to meet with His people.

The regular and regulatory nature of the offerings was like the ticking of the clock we are all used to today, it marked time for the Israelites, it governed their life, and enabled them to measure their lives, and

the passing of the day – by the standards, and ordinances God had put in place.

Today we are governed by the Roman calendar, pagan festivals digital watches and phones with alarms that beep all day, all controlled by Mega Corporate companies, the TV and social media taking the place of the Tabernacle. Man-made empty gormless shallow replacements, with no meaning.

The regular and ordered offerings to God, are what became the ordered and regular life of every Israelite. All the time the offerings and sacrifices were properly attended to, with devout dedication, then the lives of the nation followed suit. Ordered and regular and Godly life started in the tabernacle and then if done properly it would filter out into every family.

This is why God informed Moes that all the offerings were to be offered by fire as a sweet savour a pleasing aroma. It was nothing to do with whether the lamb of beef was cooked properly, but it what mental capacity, in what spirit of mind the sacrifices were offered;

For example: Isaiah 1: 11-14 *To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices unto me? saith the Lord: I am full of the burnt offerings of rams, and the fat of fed beasts; and I delight not in the blood of bullocks, or of lambs...incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; it is iniquity, even the solemn meeting...they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear them.*

Everyday, one lamb was to be offered in the morning, and one lamb to be offered in the evening, always to be of the finest quality, without any blemishes. Along with each lamb, one tenth of an ephah of fine flour had to offered – this was an omer – which is equivalent to how much grain can be found on one sheaf, and also how much manna each person could gather. The total would weigh about 3.5lbs, about the same as a medium sized hammer, and be about 4 pints. This would be mixed one quarter of a hin of oil – roughly 1 and

half pints. Maybe these would have been mixed together, and put over the lamb to help it burn evenly and slowly. It cannot be certain. Maybe they were mixed together to make a cake of some kind. At the same time an equal measurement of wine – quarter of a hin - 1.5 pints was also given as a drink offering. It seems this also was poured into the fire – which would have caused a lot of steam – and an interesting pleasant smell.

These three components speak of the basic essential blessings given to men – everyday as the Psalmist relates: 104:15 *And wine that makes glad the heart of man, and oil to make his face to shine, and bread which strengthens man's heart.* Everyday, man receives – and so everyday man should praise and thank God. So with this continual burnt offering. The morning offering would still just about be remaining, when the evening sacrifice would be placed, and that would almost be gone, but not quite when the next morning sacrifice was made – so literally continual. Each lamb would be fully



consumed. This was designed to teach the priesthood and the people that only by dedicating ourselves to the transforming fire of the Word, through the intercession of the High Priest, can we be

acceptable to God. Paul explained this also in Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* An ongoing work, continual.

Sabbath Offerings

In addition to the regular continual daily burnt offering, on the Sabbath, they had to make an offering of two lambs a year old without defect, - so that would have meant a total of four – every sabbath - together with their associated flour, oil and wine offerings. In effect then, while the rest of the congregation rested from the hard work of the week, the priests had to work twice as hard! For those that are spiritual priests – as Peter describes (1 Peter 2:9) *But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood* everyday is a Sabbath, whereby extra effort is required to rest from the works of the flesh, - that is sin.

Monthly Offerings

These monthly offerings are not mentioned in detail before, not even in the book of Leviticus. However in Numbers 10:10 we read that trumpets were to be blown over the burnt offerings on the first day of every month- at the time of the new moon. These days would have been very distinctive with their dark evenings, and were actually also treated as sabbaths, so would have had the additional extra lambs offered.

But with those, two young bulls, seven male lambs and one ram, all to be offered with a specified proportion of fine flour, oil and wine – these animals were designed to remind the congregation of their willingness to offer themselves. The bullocks were used not just for meat, but for ploughing, carting, grinding corn, oil presses and so on, and so reminded of the labour. Rams represented the strength of the flock, whereas the lambs, fresh and skittish spoke of the innocence of youth. Every month, as the year moved through its seasons, the nation would see how their toil, strength and virtue must be given and dedicated to God. In practice of course, these sacrifices were often forgotten and overlooked and replaced with their own celebrations. (See Isaiah 1 already referred to) The addition of another animal to be offered every new moon was a constant reminder of the presence of sin. A young goat had to be offered for a

sin offering. Remembering that sin offerings were prepared and offered differently to burnt offerings. The animal was cut open, the inner fat and kidneys were removed, and burnt upon the altar. The rest of the beast, skin, flesh even dung was all taken outside the camp and burnt. It was not offered as a celebration or a dedication, but that the presence of sin is abhorrent to God. The flesh, the outward works, the glory of man, was to be entirely consumed and done away with.

In all of these things, Israel were being shown Salvation – through a Saviour, not just in the work of the High Priest and the Priesthood operating in the Tabernacle but the sacrifices themselves which were but a representation: Hebrews 9:14: *How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?* and 1 Peter 1:18-19 [ye are redeemed] *with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*

Paul explained also in Romans 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*

Brother Terry