



Study Guide: Numbers – Chapter 28

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Numbers Chapter 28 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Numbers Chapter 28 details the specific offerings and sacrifices that the Israelites were commanded to present regularly and on special occasions. This chapter contributes to the book's flow by emphasizing the ongoing covenantal relationship between God and Israel through prescribed worship practices. It highlights the importance of continual devotion and obedience in maintaining holiness and fellowship with God. Readers should watch for the detailed instructions about daily, Sabbath, monthly, and festival offerings, which reveal the rhythm of Israel's worship life and God's desire for consistent dedication.

Context

Numbers is set during the wilderness wanderings of Israel after the Exodus from Egypt and before entering the Promised Land. The immediate literary context of chapter 28 follows the instructions about the consecration of the Levites and the duties of the priests, focusing here on the sacrificial system as a means of maintaining covenantal fellowship. The key speaker is God, communicating through Moses, who relays the divine commands to the people. Historically, these offerings reinforce the Mosaic covenant, underscoring Israel's identity as a holy nation set apart by God's laws and worship regulations.

Outline

The chapter can be divided into several movements: first, the daily burnt offerings and accompanying grain and drink offerings establish a continual pattern of worship. Next, the Sabbath offerings add a weekly dimension to Israel's devotion. Then, the monthly offerings on the new moon mark the beginning of each month with special sacrifices. Finally, the chapter concludes with instructions for the annual festival offerings, including those for Passover and the Feast of Weeks, linking Israel's worship calendar to God's redemptive acts and covenant promises.



Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: God commands Moses to instruct Aaron and his sons about the continual burnt offerings, specifying a year-old male lamb offered every morning and evening, symbolizing Israel's constant dedication to God.

Verses 4-6: Along with the burnt lambs, grain offerings and drink offerings accompany the sacrifices, indicating the completeness and richness of worship, combining animal, grain, and libation elements.

Verses 7-8: On the Sabbath, the offering increases to two lambs, maintaining the daily offerings while adding a special element to honor the day of rest and covenantal renewal.

Verses 9-10: The new moon is marked by an additional burnt offering of two bulls, one ram, and seven lambs, accompanied by grain and drink offerings, signifying the sanctification of time and God's sovereign control over the calendar.

Verses 11-15: The monthly offerings are to be presented on the first day of each month, reinforcing the cyclical nature of worship and Israel's ongoing commitment to God throughout the year.

Verses 16-25: The chapter concludes with the festival offerings, particularly for Passover and the Feast of Weeks, detailing the number and type of animals to be sacrificed. These offerings commemorate God's deliverance and provision, linking Israel's worship to historical acts of salvation.

Key Themes

One key theme is the constancy of worship, as seen in the daily and weekly offerings that maintain Israel's relationship with God. Another theme is the sanctification of time, where the new moon and festivals mark sacred moments in the calendar, reflecting God's lordship over time and history. The chapter also highlights the completeness of worship through the combination of burnt offerings, grain, and drink offerings, symbolizing total devotion. Finally, the chapter underscores the covenantal nature of Israel's worship, linking sacrifices to God's promises and redemptive acts.

Cross-References



Leviticus 23 provides a broader overview of the appointed festivals, helping to understand the significance of the festival offerings in Numbers 28. Exodus 29 describes the consecration of priests and the sacrificial system, clarifying the role of offerings in Israel's worship. Psalm 51:16-17 contrasts God's desire for a contrite heart with ritual sacrifices, reminding readers that offerings are meaningful only when accompanied by genuine repentance. Hebrews 10 discusses the ultimate sacrifice of Christ, providing a New Testament perspective on the sacrificial system's fulfillment and pointing to the temporary nature of these offerings.

Application

Modern disciples can learn from the disciplined and regular nature of Israel's worship, recognizing the importance of consistent spiritual practices such as prayer, Scripture reading, and communal worship. The sanctification of time invites believers to set apart special moments for reflection and celebration of God's work in their lives. The detailed offerings remind us that worship involves the whole person—heart, mind, and actions—and calls for sincere dedication rather than mere ritual. Finally, understanding these sacrifices as pointing toward Christ encourages believers to approach God with gratitude for the ultimate atonement and to live in ongoing fellowship with Him.

Summary

Numbers Chapter 28 outlines the structured system of offerings that sustained Israel's covenant relationship with God through daily, weekly, monthly, and annual sacrifices. These instructions emphasize continual worship, the sanctification of time, and the completeness of devotion required by God. The chapter serves as a reminder of the importance of consistent faithfulness and points forward to the ultimate fulfillment of these sacrifices in Christ. It integrates Israel's worship life into the broader narrative of God's redemptive plan and covenantal faithfulness.