



Study Guide: Numbers – Chapter 29

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Numbers Chapter 29 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Numbers Chapter 29 concludes the detailed instructions for Israel's sacrificial system during the wilderness period. This chapter specifically outlines the offerings for the seventh month, including the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles. It contributes to the book's flow by emphasizing the importance of ritual worship and God's covenantal relationship with His people through prescribed sacrifices. Readers should watch for the precise nature of these offerings and their timing, which reflect Israel's ongoing commitment to holiness and dependence on God's provision.

Context

Numbers 29 is situated at the end of the book of Numbers, a text that records Israel's journey from Sinai to the borders of the Promised Land. The immediate literary context includes detailed instructions for offerings and festivals that punctuate Israel's calendar year, reinforcing their identity as God's covenant people. The chapter follows the instructions for daily and special sacrifices and completes the outline of the seventh month's sacred observances. The key speaker is God, communicating through Moses, who serves as the mediator between God and Israel. Historically, these instructions reflect the covenantal framework established at Sinai, where obedience to God's law, including sacrificial worship, was central to Israel's relationship with Him.

Outline

Numbers 29 can be divided into three main sections based on the festivals and their associated offerings. The first section details the offerings for the Feast of Trumpets, emphasizing the blowing of trumpets and the required sacrifices. The second section outlines the offerings for the Day of Atonement, highlighting the special sin offerings and burnt offerings that atone for the people's sins. The final section describes the offerings for the seven days of the Feast of Tabernacles, including daily burnt offerings and a



concluding solemn assembly. Each section carefully specifies the number and type of animals to be offered, showing a progression from a single day to a week-long festival.

Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-6: These verses introduce the Feast of Trumpets on the first day of the seventh month. The chapter begins by commanding a holy convocation and the blowing of trumpets. The sacrifices include one young bull, one ram, and seven male lambs as burnt offerings, along with their grain offerings and drink offerings. This establishes a pattern of solemn worship and celebration.

Verses 7-11: The offerings continue with additional bulls, rams, and lambs as peace offerings, highlighting the communal aspect of the feast. The trumpet blasts serve as a call to assembly and worship, symbolizing God's presence and the call to repentance and readiness.

Verses 12-16: The Day of Atonement is observed on the tenth day of the seventh month. This section specifies the sin offerings and burnt offerings necessary for atonement. One young bull and one ram are offered as sin offerings, with additional burnt offerings of lambs and grain offerings. The detailed sacrifices underscore the seriousness of sin and the need for purification before God.

Verses 17-34: The Feast of Tabernacles spans seven days, beginning on the fifteenth day of the seventh month. Each day requires the offering of thirteen bulls, two rams, and fourteen lambs as burnt offerings, accompanied by grain and drink offerings. The final day includes a solemn assembly with additional offerings. This extended period of worship celebrates God's provision and presence during Israel's wilderness journey, reminding the people of their dependence on Him.

Verse 35: The chapter concludes by affirming that these offerings are to be made annually in their appointed seasons, establishing a lasting covenantal rhythm of worship for Israel.

Key Themes

One key theme is the sanctity of time and ritual, as Israel is called to observe specific festivals with precise offerings, marking sacred moments in their communal life. Another theme is atonement and purification, especially highlighted in the Day of Atonement sacrifices, which underscore the gravity of sin and the necessity of divine forgiveness. The chapter also emphasizes God's provision and faithfulness, celebrated during the Feast of



Tabernacles, which recalls God's sustaining presence during the wilderness wanderings. Lastly, the theme of covenantal obedience runs throughout, illustrating how worship and sacrifice are integral to Israel's relationship with God.

Cross-References

Leviticus 23 provides a foundational description of the appointed festivals, including the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles, which clarifies the timing and significance of these observances. Hebrews 9 discusses the atoning work of Christ in relation to the Day of Atonement, deepening understanding of the sin offerings in Numbers 29. Exodus 29 outlines the consecration of priests and sacrificial system, providing background for the offerings described here. Psalm 81 references the blowing of trumpets as a call to worship, connecting with the Feast of Trumpets. Finally, Deuteronomy 16 emphasizes the importance of celebrating these festivals as acts of obedience and remembrance of God's provision.

Application

Modern disciples can draw from Numbers 29 the importance of setting aside sacred time for worship and reflection, recognizing that spiritual rhythms help maintain a healthy relationship with God. The detailed sacrifices remind believers of the seriousness of sin and the need for ongoing repentance and reliance on Christ's atoning work. The Feast of Tabernacles encourages gratitude for God's provision and presence, prompting believers to celebrate God's faithfulness in their own lives. Additionally, the chapter challenges the church to maintain covenantal faithfulness through communal worship and obedience, fostering unity and spiritual growth within the body of Christ.

Summary

Numbers Chapter 29 completes the annual cycle of Israel's sacred festivals with detailed instructions for the seventh month, emphasizing the Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Feast of Tabernacles. Through precise sacrificial offerings and appointed times, the chapter highlights themes of sanctified time, atonement, divine provision, and covenantal obedience. These instructions reinforce Israel's identity as God's holy people and establish a rhythm of worship that points forward to ultimate redemption. The chapter serves as a vital link in understanding Israel's worship life and God's ongoing relationship with His covenant community.