



## Numbers - Chapter Twenty Nine

**V** **Numbers 22:1-36:13 - Israel in the Plains of Moab (continues)**

V.d Numbers 27:1-30:16 - Laws for the Land (continues)

V.d.iii Numbers 28:1-29:40 - Calendar of Public Sacrifices (continues/concludes)

### Summary of Chapter Twenty Nine

The story continues from Chapter Twenty Eight with three more ordinances given to the people, this time relating to the Festivals of Trumpets and Booths, and for the Day of Atonement.

V.d.iii.6 Numbers 29:1-6 - Offerings at the Festival of Trumpets

Every new moon was a holy day (Numbers 28:11-15), but since the seventh month of the year was itself holy, the first day of that month was especially holy. It was to be marked by the blowing of trumpets, with everyone attending a holy meeting.

<sup>1</sup> On the first day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. It is a day for you to blow the trumpets, <sup>2</sup> and you shall offer a burnt-offering, a pleasing odour to the Lord: one young bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish. <sup>3</sup> Their grain-offering shall be of choice flour mixed with oil, three-tenths of one ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the ram, <sup>4</sup> and one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; <sup>5</sup> with one male goat for a sin-offering, to make atonement for you. <sup>6</sup> These are in addition to the burnt-offering of the new moon and its grain-offering, and the regular burnt-offering and its grain-offering, and their drink-

offerings, according to the ordinance for them, a pleasing odour, an offering by fire to the Lord.

### Numbers 29:1-6

The first day of the seventh month was marked by a holy convocation, no ordinary work, the blowing of trumpets, and almost twice as many sacrifices as on other new moon festivals. According to Numbers 10:10, blowing the trumpets at the festivals is a plea to God to remember Israel. For observant Jews even today, the days from the first to the tenth of the seventh month, which is the Day of Atonement, are the holiest in the year, when they search their consciences and confess their sins.

You shall not work at your occupations is a lesser restriction than that placed on the Sabbath and the Day of Atonement, where even domestic work such as lighting a fire or cooking a family meal was forbidden.

### V.d.iii.7 Numbers 29:7-11 - Offerings on the Day of Atonement

This day is fully described in great detail in Leviticus Chapter 16. Here is simply a list of the principal sacrifices and a reminder of the laity's duties: to hold a holy convocation, fast, and do no work.

<sup>7</sup> On the tenth day of this seventh month you shall have a holy convocation, and deny yourselves; you shall do no work. <sup>8</sup> You shall offer a burnt-offering to the Lord, a pleasing odour: one young bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old. They shall be without blemish. <sup>9</sup> Their grain-offering shall be of choice flour mixed with oil, three-tenths of an ephah for the bull, two-tenths for the one ram, <sup>10</sup> one-tenth for each of the seven lambs; <sup>11</sup> with one male goat for a sin-offering, in addition to the sin-offering of atonement, and the regular burnt-offering and its grain-offering, and their drink-offerings.

### Numbers 29:7-11

On the tenth day of this seventh month was the statutory date for the Day of Atonement each year. This was not intended to be a happy festival. It was a day to carefully consider the burden of sin, and to expunge it on a national basis through the appointed sacrifice for that day.

You shall have a holy convocation, and deny yourselves. The people were to gather as they did for other festival days, but this is the only one, in fact the only time in the OT, where the people are commanded to fast. They can, of course, choose to fast at any other time, something practised by many Christians, although it is not compulsory as it is in some faiths such as Islam.

### V.d.iii.8 Numbers 29:12-40 - Offerings at the Festival of Booths

This festival involved all the Israelites living in booths or tabernacles, i.e. temporary dwellings, for the week to remind themselves of their lifestyle in the wilderness; refer to Leviticus 23:33-43. Once again, this calendar recorded in Numbers 28:1-29:40 focuses on the sacrifices offered by the priests. The large number of sacrifices offered during the eight days highlights its importance. Coming at the end of the agricultural year in October, the festival was an occasion to thank God for the harvest and to pray for plenty of rain in the next year. In Israel, rain is expected only between October and April.

<sup>12</sup> On the fifteenth day of the seventh month you shall have a holy convocation; you shall not work at your occupations. You shall celebrate a festival to the Lord for seven days. <sup>13</sup> You shall offer a burnt-offering, an offering by fire, a pleasing odour to the Lord: thirteen young bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old. They shall be without blemish. <sup>14</sup> Their grain-offering shall be of choice flour mixed with oil, three-tenths of an ephah for each of the thirteen bulls, two-tenths for each of the two rams, <sup>15</sup> and one-tenth for each of the fourteen lambs; <sup>16</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering, in addition to the regular burnt-offering, its grain-offering and its drink-offering.

<sup>17</sup> On the second day: twelve young bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish, <sup>18</sup> with the grain-offering and the drink-offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, as prescribed in accordance with their number; <sup>19</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering, in addition to the regular burnt-offering and its grain-offering, and their drink-offerings.

<sup>20</sup> On the third day: eleven bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish, <sup>21</sup> with the grain-offering and the drink-offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, as prescribed in accordance with their number; <sup>22</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering, in addition to the regular burnt-offering and its grain-offering and its drink-offering.

<sup>23</sup> On the fourth day: ten bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish, <sup>24</sup> with the grain-offering and the drink-offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, as prescribed in accordance with their number; <sup>25</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering,

in addition to the regular burnt-offering, its grain-offering and its drink-offering.

<sup>26</sup> On the fifth day: nine bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish, <sup>27</sup> with the grain-offering and the drink-offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, as prescribed in accordance with their number; <sup>28</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering, in addition to the regular burnt-offering and its grain-offering and its drink-offering.

<sup>29</sup> On the sixth day: eight bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish, <sup>30</sup> with the grain-offering and the drink-offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, as prescribed in accordance with their number; <sup>31</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering, in addition to the regular burnt-offering, its grain-offering, and its drink-offerings.

<sup>32</sup> On the seventh day: seven bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old without blemish, <sup>33</sup> with the grain-offering and the drink-offerings for the bulls, for the rams, and for the lambs, as prescribed in accordance with their number; <sup>34</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering, besides the regular burnt-offering, its grain-offering, and its drink-offering.

<sup>35</sup> On the eighth day you shall have a solemn assembly; you shall not work at your occupations. <sup>36</sup> You shall offer a burnt-offering, an offering by fire, a pleasing odour to the Lord: one bull, one ram, seven male lambs a year old without blemish, <sup>37</sup> and the grain-offering and the drink-offerings for the bull, for the ram, and for the lambs, as prescribed in accordance with their number; <sup>38</sup> also one male goat for a sin-offering, in addition to the regular burnt-offering and its grain-offering and its drink-offering.

### Numbers 29:12-38

On the fifteenth day of the seventh month. Just five days after the Day of Atonement (v.7), a grand festival of celebration was to be held.

Thirteen young bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs a year old. This was the required offering on the first day of the Festival of Tabernacles. On the second day, twelve young bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs were required to be

offered. On the seventh day the requirement was seven bulls, two rams, fourteen male lambs, and so on, throughout the festival. On the eighth and final day the people were again required to gather for a solemn assembly, offering just one bull, one ram, seven male lambs.

You shall not work at your occupations. As with the Festival of Trumpets, this is a lesser restriction than that placed on the Sabbath and the Day of Atonement, where even domestic work such as lighting a fire or cooking a family meal was forbidden.

The level of sacrifice required for this festival is remarkable. Seventy seven young bulls, sixteen rams and one hundred and twelve male lambs a year old were to be slaughtered. Such an ordinance is a clear demonstration to the people that there will be abundant provision for them all in the Promised Land.

<sup>39</sup> These you shall offer to the Lord at your appointed festivals, in addition to your votive offerings and your freewill-offerings, as your burnt-offerings, your grain-offerings, your drink-offerings, and your offerings of well-being.

#### Numbers 29:39

These you shall offer to the Lord at your appointed festivals. This verse functions as a footnote to the calendar of public sacrifices listed in Numbers 28:1-29:40, clarifying that private sacrifices prompted by vows or other circumstances may be offered whenever they are needed. The calendar of public sacrifices simply lays down the essential offerings that must always be made.

<sup>40</sup> So Moses told the Israelites everything just as the Lord had commanded Moses.

#### Numbers 29:40

So Moses told the Israelites everything. Significantly, now as Israel was on the threshold of the Promised Land, they needed to be reminded of the essential place of sacrifice. Promised Land people know they need an atoning sacrifice and they are to remember it often.

Just as the Lord had commanded. For Israel to obey what God commanded in Numbers Chapters 28 and 29, it meant that every year the priests sacrificed 1,086 lambs, 113 bulls, 32 rams, and used more than a ton of flour, and some 1,000 bottles of oil and wine on behalf of the nation. The most prominent animal of sacrifice was the lamb. This is an obvious prophetic reference to Jesus, who is: <<*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*>> (John 1:29).

All this sacrifice did not include the sacrifices made by individuals or households. The priests and Levites were clearly busy with the job of sacrifice, and it was fulfilled at considerable expense. In the days of Jesus, there is record of 255,600 Passover lambs being sacrificed at one Passover just by individuals and households. Significantly, none of it was enough! Not one of these hundreds of thousands of sacrifices over the centuries could ever take away a person's sin; that had to wait until a perfect sacrifice was offered - the sacrifice of Jesus.

Verse 40 is Numbers 30:1 in the Hebrew.