

XVIII. LAWS REGARDING SACRIFICES AND VOWS. xxviii.1-xxx.16

a. Offerings required at prescribed intervals (xxviii.1-xxix.40)

As the wandering life of the wilderness was drawing to an end and the settled life in Canaan loomed on the horizon, stress was laid on the performance of sacrifice at regular intervals, thus showing the continuity of God's presence with His people, and stressing the importance of constantly remembering the necessity of cleansing from sin. This section contains provisions first for daily sacrifice (3-8), then weekly (9-10), then monthly (11-15), then at certain special festivals (xxviii.16-xxix.40). In connection with each of these, exact specifications for the offerings are given.

The special festivals come in two groups, in the first and seventh months. The festivals of the first month include the Passover (xxviii.16), which has already been fully described (see reference at Nu.ix.1-14), the seven days of unleavened bread which immediately followed the Passover (17-25), and the day of the firstfruits (26-31). The festivals in the seventh month began with celebration of the first day of the seventh month, when there was to be a great blowing of trumpets (xxix.1-6). Then comes the day of atonement, which is the tenth day of the seventh month (7-11), and the feast of tabernacles, which begins on the fifteenth day of the seventh month (12-38). Further details about the day of atonement are given in Lv.xvi and xxiii. Additional details about the feast of tabernacles are found in Lv.xxiii. Here only the sacrifices are under consideration. On each of the first seven days two rams and fourteen lambs are offered; on the eighth day half as many. On the first day thirteen bullocks are sacrificed (13), on the second day twelve (17),, on the third eleven (20), and so on down to the seventh day, when only seven bullocks are sacrificed (23,26,29,32). On the eighth day one bullock is sacrificed (36).