

## “The Way of Wandering” NUMBERS Chapters 15 & 16

### CHAPTER 15 – “OFFERINGS VS. OFFENSES”

(v1-16) “When you have come into the land you are to inhabit, which I am giving to you, make an offering . . .”

- **Burnt Offering** - This kind of offering was described as "that which goes up (to God)." It was termed "whole" ([Leviticus 6:22](#)) because the entire offering was to be burnt upon the altar. It was termed "continual" ([Exodus 29:38-42](#)) to teach the nation of Israel that their sinfulness required a complete and continual atonement and consecration. This sacrifice, offered every morning and evening, pointed to Christ's atoning death for sinners ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#)) and His total consecration to God ([Luke 2:49](#)).
- **Grain Offering**- This represents sacrifices of thanksgiving and devotion to God. (Thanksgiving)
- **Drink Offering**- Offered along with the regular offerings.
- **Peace Offering** - This sacrificial offering was also called a heave offering and a wave offering. This was a bloody offering presented to God. Part of the offering was eaten by the priest (representing God's acceptance) and part was eaten by the worshiper and his guests (non-officiating priests or Levites and the poor, [Deuteronomy 12:18; 16:11](#)). Thus, God hosted the meal, communing with the worshiper and other participants. This sacrifice celebrated covering of sin, forgiveness by God, and the restoration of a right and meaningful relationship with God and with life itself ([Judges 20:26; 21:4](#)). (Fellowship)

(*Ephah ... hin* - Measurements equal to 4 to 6 gallons and 6 to 8 pints.)

(v17-21) **Heave Offering** - Heave Offering (Heb. *teruma*, "lifted up, raised"). These offerings took their names from the special ceremonies connected with their presentation.

(v22-29) “If you sin unintentionally, and do not observe all these commandments” - **Sin Offering** - This bloody offering, also known as a guilt offering, was presented for unintentional or intentional sins for which there was no possible restitution ([Leviticus 4:5-13; 6:24-30](#)). If the offering was not accompanied by repentance, divine forgiveness was withheld ([Numbers 15:30](#)). Expiation or covering (forgiveness) of sin was represented by the blood smeared on the horns of the altar of incense or burnt offering and poured out at the base of the altar. The size (value) and sex of the beast offered depended on the rank of the offerer. The higher his post the more responsibility he bore. The penalty for all sin, death, was vicariously inflicted on the sacrificial animal. Guilt for the worshiper's sin was transferred symbolically to the animal through the laying on of the offerer's hands.

(v30-31) The word *presumptuously* means *with a high hand* in defiance against God and His commands. The word *despise* (Heb. *bazah*) to disesteem: despise, disdain, contemn (-ptible), + think to scorn, vile person.

(v32-36) **This passage reveals the law's condemnation.**

(v37-41) This *blue thread* in the tassel reflects a heavenly color for a holy lifestyle; they are, as we are, to follow God, to live for God, and to testify of God.

### CHAPTER 16 - “DIVISION MAKERS”

(v1-19) **Six observations of Korah's rebellion against Moses and Aaron:**

- Korah was a leader of divisiveness (v1-2).
- Korah was envious of Moses and Aaron (v3).
- Korah was seeking self-glory (v10).
- Korah was a complainer (v11).
- Korah was rebellious and had rebellious friends (v11-14).
- Korah was an insidious, deceptive, and charismatic leader (v19).

(v20-22) **Here we have three powerful observations regarding the heart and faith of Moses:**

- Moses was a man of intercession (v22).
- Moses was a man of protection (v26).
- Moses was a man who trusted God, even in vengeance (v28-30).

(v31-40) **Judgment falls upon the rebellious. (Jude 11)**

(v41-50) **A congregation that complains will face calamity and will collapse.**