

Offerings and Instructions

Offerings (15:1-21)

Chapter 15 begins the story of Israel's wandering in the desert. How sad it was that they had failed to trust God's promises and refused to take possession of the land He had given them. But even though they had denied Him, God was not about to go back on His promise. He would indeed bring Israel into Canaan, just not in *this* generation. We see this mercy here at the beginning of the chapter where He gives instructions for worship *after* they enter the land.

With each type of animal and for each one, flour, oil, and wine offerings were to be made at the same time. The offerings mentioned in this chapter are as follows:

	Flour	Oil	Wine
1 Lamb	1/10 ephah	1/4 hin	1/4 hin
1 Ram	2/10 ephah	1/3 hin	1/3 hin
1 Bull	3/10 ephah	½ hin	½ hin

ephah = 5/8 bushel
hin = 1 gallon

! These rules concerning offerings were for the native-born Israelites *and* for the non-Israelites who lived among them. What does this tell you about the LORD and the people from whom He desires worship?

Additional Offerings (15:22-31)

This section notes offerings that were to be brought in the case of unintentional sins. The priest was to make atonement for such sins either on behalf of the nation or on behalf of individuals.

But with people who sinned defiantly (who showed hardness of heart), they were not to be shown such mercy. They were to be cut off from the people.

Sabbath Breakers (15:32-36)

Those who broke the Sabbath laws were to be put to death since it amounted to a despising of God's word.

Instructions Concerning Tassels (15:37-41)

What do tassels on garments all of a sudden have to do with the other items in this chapter? Quite a lot when you hear the Lord's explanation. The Israelites were to attach tassels on the corners of their garments. A blue cord would attach to each tassel. The tassels were to be a reminder to the people of the commands of the Lord. As the tassels would constantly "wave" in front of them, so they were to keep the word of God constantly before their eyes.

! What devices do you use to keep God's word in your mind and heart?

Notes