

# Numbers 15: Offerings, Foreigners, and Clothing

- Proscriptions for offerings
  - Finely ground flour (the best stuff), olive oil, and wine
  - Accompanies (nearly?) all offerings
  - Offered in proportion to the expense of the offering (goat < ram < bull)
- Equality of native-born Israelites and foreigners
  - “The same laws and regulations will apply both to you and to the foreigner residing among you.” (15:16)
  - Recall that “a mixed multitude also went up with them...” (Exo. 12:36-38)
    - Procedure for joining the Israelite community (Exo. 12:43-51)
  - Jethro, the priest of Midian (Exo. 18:7-12)
  - Caleb the Kenizzite (Num. 32:11-12)
  - Rahab the Canaanite (Josh. ch. 2, ch. 6; Heb. 11:31; James 2:25)
  - Heber the Kenite (Jdg. 4:11) and his descendants (Jdg. 1:16)
  - Ruth the Moabitess (Ruth 1:16-17)
  - Gittites (residents of the *Philistine* city of Gath)
    - Good
      - Obed-Edom (2 Sam. 6:10-11)
      - Ittai (and 600 others) (2 Sam. 15:16-22)
    - Bad
      - Goliath (1 Sam. 17:4)
      - Lahmi (1 Chr. 20:15)
  - Hushai the Arkite, David’s double agent (2 Sam. 15:32-37)  
(cf. Arkites as “Son of Canaan” in Gen. 10:17)
- Dealing with unintentional sins
  - Unintentional sins of the community (offer a bull), individual (offer a female goat)
    - Offerings should include the supplements in the previous section
    - Cf. Leviticus 4-5—priestly procedure for handling when a priest, the whole community, a leader, or an individual unintentionally sins
  - Defiant sin
    - “...must be cut off from the people of Israel... their guilt remains on them”
    - Example: sabbath law-breaking
      - Obtaining firewood in the Sinai was likely *hard* labor
      - Capital punishment for lawbreaking in the Pentateuch is rare (cf. the blasphemous son of an Egyptian in Lev. 24:10-16)
      - How should modern Christians understand passages such as these?
      - Do we not take these kinds of offenses seriously enough today?

- Tassels on garments
  - Why were the Israelites to have tassels on their clothes?
    - “You will have these tassels to look at and so you will remember all the commands of the Lord”
    - Any other reasons?
  - What ways do we fill our daily life with reminders to be holy? Should we do this?