

NUMBERS 15:1 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

Directions concerning the different offerings they should bring unto the Lord when they should come to the land of Canaan, Num 15:1-3. Directions relative to the meat-offering, Num 15:4; to the drink-offering, Num 15:5. Of the burnt-offering, vow-offering, peace-offering, drink-offering, etc., Num 15:6-12. All born in the country must perform these rites, Num 15:13, and the strangers also, Num 15:14-16. They shall offer unto the Lord a heave-offering of the first-fruits of the land, Num 15:17-21. Concerning omissions through ignorance, and the sacrifices to be offered on such occasions, Num 15:22-29. He who sins presumptuously shall be cut off, Num 15:30, Num 15:31. History of the person who gathered sticks on the Sabbath, Num 15:32. He is brought to Moses and Aaron, Num 15:33. They put him in confinement till the mind of the Lord should be known on the case, Num 15:34. The Lord commands him to be stoned, Num 15:35. He is stoned to death, Num 15:36. The Israelites are commanded to make fringes to the borders of their garments, Num 15:37, Num 15:38. The end for which these fringes were to be made, that they might remember the commandments of the Lord, that they might be holy, Num 15:39-41.

NUMBERS 15:2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and tell them, 'When you have come into the land of your habitations, which I give to you,

Verse 2

When ye be come into the land - Some learned men are of opinion that several offerings prescribed by the law were not intended to be made in the wilderness, but in the promised land; the former not affording those conveniences which were necessary to the complete observance of the Divine worship in this and several other respects.

NUMBERS 15:3 and will make an offering by fire to the LORD, a burnt offering, or a sacrifice, to accomplish a vow, or as a freewill offering, or in your set feasts, to make a pleasant aroma to the LORD, of the herd, or of the flock;

Verse 3

And will make an offering - For the different kinds of offerings, sacrifices, etc., see Lev 1:2, Lev 1:7.

NUMBERS 15:4 then he who offers his offering shall offer to the LORD a meal offering of a tenth part of an ephah of fine flour mixed with the fourth part of a hin of oil.

NUMBERS 15:5 You shall prepare wine for the drink offering, the fourth part of a hin, with the burnt offering, or for the sacrifice, for each lamb.

Verse 5

The fourth part of a hin - The quantity of meal and flour was augmented in proportion to the size of the sacrifice with which it was offered. With a Lamb or a Kid were offered one tenth deal of flour, (the tenth part of an ephah, see on Exo 29:40 (note)), the fourth part of a hin of oil, and the fourth part of a hin of wine. With a Ram, two tenth deals of flour, a third part of a hin of oil, and a third part of a hin of wine. With a Bullock, three tenth deals of flour, half a hin of oil, and half a hin of wine. See Num 15:4-11.

NUMBERS 15:6 “Or for a ram, you shall prepare for a meal offering two tenth parts of an ephah of fine flour mixed with the third part of a hin of oil;

NUMBERS 15:7 and for the drink offering you shall offer the third part of a hin of wine, of a pleasant aroma to the LORD.

NUMBERS 15:8 When you prepare a bull for a burnt offering, or for a sacrifice, to accomplish a vow, or for peace offerings to the LORD;

NUMBERS 15:9 then shall he offer with the bull a meal offering of three tenth parts of an ephah of fine flour mixed with half a hin of oil:

NUMBERS 15:10 and you shall offer for the drink offering half a hin of wine, for an offering made by fire, of a pleasant aroma to the LORD.

NUMBERS 15:11 Thus shall it be done for each bull, or for each ram, or for each of the male lambs, or of the young goats.

NUMBERS 15:12 According to the number that you shall prepare, so you shall do to everyone according to their number.

NUMBERS 15:13 “All who are native-born shall do these things in this way, in offering an offering made by fire, of a pleasant aroma to the LORD.

NUMBERS 15:14 If a stranger lives as a foreigner with you, or whoever may be among you throughout your generations, and will offer an offering made by fire, of a pleasant aroma to the LORD; as you do, so he shall do.

 Verse 14

If a stranger sojourn - See the notes on Lev 19:33; Lev 22:9. When the case of the Jewish people is fairly considered, and their situation with respect to the surrounding idolatrous nations, we shall see the absolute necessity of having but one form of worship in the land. That alone was genuine which was prescribed by the Almighty, and no others could be tolerated, because they were idolatrous. All strangers - all that came to sojourn in the land, were required to conform to it; and it was right that those who did conform to it should have equal rights and privileges with the Hebrews themselves, which we find was the case. But under the Christian dispensation, as no particular form of worship is prescribed, the types and ceremonies of the Mosaic institution being all fulfilled, unlimited toleration should be allowed; and while the sacred writings are made the basis of the worship offered to God, every man should be allowed to worship according to his own conscience, for in this respect every one is "Lord of himself, accountable to none

But to his conscience and his God alone."

NUMBERS 15:15 For the assembly, there shall be one statute for you and for the stranger who lives as a foreigner, a statute forever throughout your generations. As you are, so shall the foreigner be before the LORD.

NUMBERS 15:16 One law and one ordinance shall be for you, and for the stranger who lives as a foreigner with you."

NUMBERS 15:17 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

NUMBERS 15:18 "Speak to the children of Israel, and tell them, 'When you come into the land where I bring you,

NUMBERS 15:19 then it shall be that when you eat of the bread of the land, you shall offer up a wave offering to the LORD.

NUMBERS 15:20 Of the first of your dough you shall offer up a cake for a wave offering. As the wave offering of the threshing floor, so you shall heave it.

Verse 20

Ye shall offer - the first of your dough - Concerning the offerings of first-fruits, see the notes on Exo 22:29.

NUMBERS 15:21 Of the first of your dough, you shall give to the LORD a wave offering throughout your generations.

NUMBERS 15:22 "'When you shall err, and not observe all these commandments, which the LORD has spoken to Moses,

NUMBERS 15:23 even all that the LORD has commanded you by Moses, from the day that the LORD gave commandment, and onward throughout your generations;

NUMBERS 15:24 then it shall be, if it was done unwittingly, without the knowledge of the congregation, that all the congregation shall offer one young bull for a burnt offering, for a pleasant aroma to the LORD, with its meal offering, and its drink offering, according to the ordinance, and one male goat for a sin offering.

Verse 24

If aught be committed by ignorance - See the notes on Lev 4:2, and Lev 5:17. The case here probably refers to the whole congregation; the cases above, to the sin of an individual.

NUMBERS 15:25 The priest shall make atonement for all the congregation of the children of Israel, and they shall be forgiven; for it was an error, and they have brought their offering, an offering made by fire to the LORD, and their sin offering before the LORD, for their error.

Verse 25

The priest shall make an atonement - Even sins committed through ignorance required an atonement; and God in his mercy has provided one for them.

NUMBERS 15:26 All the congregation of the children of Israel shall be forgiven, as well as the stranger who lives as a foreigner among them; for with regard to all the people, it was done unwittingly.

NUMBERS 15:27 "If one person sins unwittingly, then he shall offer a female goat a year old for a sin offering.

NUMBERS 15:28 The priest shall make atonement for the soul who errs, when he sins unwittingly before the LORD, to make atonement for him; and he shall be forgiven.

NUMBERS 15:29 You shall have one law for him who does anything unwittingly, for him who is native-born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger who lives as a foreigner among them.

NUMBERS 15:30 "But the soul who does anything with a high hand, whether he is native-born or a foreigner, the same blasphemes the LORD. That soul shall be cut off from among his people.

Verse 30

But the soul that doeth aught presumptuously - Bold daring acts of transgression against the fullest evidence, and in despite of the Divine authority, admitted of no atonement; the person was to be cut off - to be excluded from God's people, and from all their privileges and blessings.

Probably the presumption mentioned here implied an utter contempt of the word and authority of God, springing from an idolatrous or atheistical mind. In such a case all repentance was precluded, because of the denial of the word and being of God. It is probably a case similar to that mentioned Heb 6:4-8 (note); Heb 10:26-31 (note); on which passages see the notes.

NUMBERS 15:31 Because he has despised the LORD's word, and has broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off. His iniquity shall be on him."

NUMBERS 15:32 While the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man gathering sticks on the Sabbath day.

Verse 32

They found a man that gathered sticks upon the Sabbath - This was in all likelihood a case of that kind supposed above: the man despised the word of the Lord, and therefore broke his commandment; see Num 15:31. On this ground he was punished with the utmost rigor of the law.

NUMBERS 15:33 Those who found him gathering sticks brought him to Moses and Aaron, and to all the congregation.

NUMBERS 15:34 They put him in custody, because it had not been declared what should be done to him.

NUMBERS 15:35 The LORD said to Moses, "The man shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him with stones outside of the camp."

NUMBERS 15:36 All the congregation brought him outside of the camp, and stoned him to death with stones, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Verse 36

Stoned him - See the note on Lev 24:23.

NUMBERS 15:37 The LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

NUMBERS 15:38 "Speak to the children of Israel, and tell them that they should make themselves fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put on the fringe of each border a cord of blue:

Verse 38

Bid them - make them fringes - We learn from Num 15:39 that these fringes were emblematical of the various commands of God. That there was any analogy between a fringe and a precept, it would be bold to assert; but when a thing is appointed to represent another, no matter how different, that first object becomes the regular representative or sign of the other. There is no analogy between the term bread and the farinaceous nutritive substance thereby signified; but because this term is used to express and represent that thing, every person thus understands it; and when the word bread is seen or heard, a perfect knowledge, not of the letters which compose that word, but of the thing signified by it, is conveyed to the mind. So the fringes, being appointed by God to represent and bring to mind the commandments of God, Num 15:39, the mention or sight of them conveyed the intelligence intended. All the Jews wore these, and so probably did our Lord; see Mat 9:20, where the word *κρασπερον* is rather to be understood of the fringe than of the hem of his garment.

NUMBERS 15:39 and it shall be to you for a fringe, that you may look on it, and remember all the commandments of the LORD, and do them; and that you not follow after your own heart and your own eyes, after which you use to play the prostitute;

NUMBERS 15:40 that you may remember and do all my commandments, and be holy to your God.

NUMBERS 15:41 I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the LORD your God."
