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A Whisper of Hope: Reassurance for Life in the Promised Land 15: 1-41



The calm and orderly obedience of the holy camp of **Isra'el** in **Numbers Chapters 1-10** had been broken by wave after wave of rebellion, disobedience, and mutiny in **Numbers Chapters 11-14**. It's time to take a break, to go back and review some of the basics, and to receive some assurances about the future. **Numbers 15** function in this was a break in the downward slide of **Isra'el's** rebellion. The introduction of a series of mitzvot interrupts the story of **Numbers** and mirrors the interrupting effect of the multiple revolts on **Isra'el's** progress toward **the Promised Land**. The effect of the mitzvot is much like a coach reviewing game strategies and basic fundamentals that have been forgotten following a crushing defeat. It is time to stop, investigate, and remember what has been forgotten, and receive encouragement in the face of despair.

Chapter 15 begins with a number of mitzvot concerning sacrifices and offerings that **the people** were to present to **YHVH** when **they** had taken up residence in **the Land of Canaan** (to see link click [Ch](#) - **Grain and Drink Offerings** and [Ci](#) - **Challah**). The next files provide regulations for sacrifices that atone for unintentional sins (see [Cj](#) - **Unintentional Sin**), and is followed by a judicial case involving a man gathering wood on

the Shabbat (see [Ck - The Sabbath-Breaker](#)). Finally there are instructions to **the people** to wear **tassels** on **their** clothing as a reminder of **God's** commandments (see [Cl - Tzit-tzit and Blue Thread](#)).²⁶⁶