

# “Red Heifer Purification”

## Numbers Chapter 19

This offering is given here on the wilderness journey, not at Mount Sinai. The wilderness journey is a journey of purification.

- Of heart to trust the Lord
- Of the disbelieving generation

In the next 38 years, a great number of the congregation will die.

This chapter seems to be about handling purification and dead bodies.

This Red Heifer is currently the center of attention. The Temple Institute is an organization dedicated on building a third temple and restoring a heart in God's people for the Holy Temple. They have researched and constructed many of the sacred vessels including the Table of Showbread, the Alter of Incense, and the Menorah. While there are other critical issues concerning the rebuilding, one important part of the rebuilding of the Temple would be its purification. The Mishnah calls for the purification waters to be sprinkled on the Temple and its vessels to be made holy. The ingredients of the purification waters are the ashes of the red heifer and water.

Since Moses only 9 red heifers have been sacrificed and burnt.

Moses	- Tabernacle
Ezra	- First Temple
Simon the Just (2)	} - Second Temple
Yochanan (2)	
El'yhoeini ben Hakof	
Chanamel HaMitzri	
Yishmael ben Pi'avi	



Maimonides, a great Jewish scholar of the Torah, said "... *and the tenth red heifer will be accomplished by the king, the Messiah; may he be revealed speedily, Amen, May it be God's will.*" His prophecy puts the next red heifer in Messianic times. Are we close?

In 1997 and 2002 there were instances of a red heifer being born. But within the next few month spots or blemishes were found. If even on hair is white or black the animal is instantly disqualified. Needless to say there is an active search and aggressive breeding of red heifers to fulfill this purpose.

### Num 19:1 1) The Red Heifer vs 1-10

Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,

Num 19:2 "This is the statute of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel that they bring you an unblemished red heifer in which is no defect *and* on which a yoke has never been placed.

- The Lord's instruction is for a red heifer
  - Female cow
  - Un Blemished (all red)
  - No Defect (no abnormalities)
  - No Yoke ever placed on her
- This would be a very rare find.

#### TYPE OF JESUS

All Red could point to blood  
No Defect could point to sinless

Num 19:3 'You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and it shall be brought outside the camp and be slaughtered in his presence.

- Brought outside the camp
- Slaughtered not Sacrificed unto the Lord.
- Eleazar didn't do the slaughtering. He officiated.

Jesus was brought out of Jerusalem

Father God officiated of Jesus death

Num 19:4 'Next Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle some of its blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times.

Num 19:5 'Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight; its hide and its flesh and its blood, with its refuse, shall be burned.

- Blood was sprinkled towards the Tent of Meeting
- Everything of the heifer was burnt. This is different than the other offerings.

Num 19:6 'The priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet *material* and cast it into the midst of the burning heifer.

- The priest who burns the heifer also burns three items with it. Cedar, Hyssop and Scarlet
- These three elements are used in the cleansing of a leper . Leprosy is a type for sin.
  - Leviticus 14:4-6 "the priest shall give orders to take two live clean birds and cedar wood and a scarlet string and hyssop for the one who is to be cleansed. The priest shall also give orders to slay the one bird in an earthenware vessel over running water. As for the live bird, he shall take it together with the cedar wood and the scarlet string and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the live bird in the blood of the bird that was slain over the running water."
- Cedar Wood - Cedar is resistant to disease and rot. Jesus crucified on wood. Possibly Cedar.
- Hyssop - attracts bees and butterflies for pollination Used to spread blood at Passover and was filled with vinegar/offered to Jesus  
But can also keep pesty insects away
- Scarlet - was used in many things
  - Veil of the Tabernacle - Exodus 26:31
  - The Curtains of the Tabernacle - Exodus 26:31
  - Garments of the High Priest - Exodus 28:5-6
  - the covering for the table of showbread - Numbers 4:8
  - the sign of Rahab's salvation - Joshua 2:21When Jesus was mocked by the soldiers they put a scarlet robe on him  
Matthew 27:28

Num 19:7 'The priest shall then wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward come into the camp, but the priest shall be unclean until evening.

Num 19:8 'The one who burns it shall also wash his clothes in water and bathe his body in water, and shall be unclean until evening.

- The priests who slaughter and burn the heifer will wash and be unclean until evening.

Num 19:9 'Now a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and the congregation of the sons of Israel shall keep it as water to remove impurity; it is purification from sin.

Num 19:10 'The one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening; and it shall be a perpetual statute to the sons of Israel and to the alien who sojourns among them.

- It says a "man" will gather the ashes. This could be a priest but it doesn't have to be.
- He gathers the ashes keep them in a clean place and will prepare the purification water.
- According to tradition only a small pinch of ash was used in the water. One heifer would last quite awhile.
- This man would need to wash and be unclean until evening.
- This is a perpetual statute.

Num 19:11 **2) Touching Dead Bodies** vs 11-22

As Israel journeys for the next 38 years, quite a number of them will perish in the wilderness. It is very important for them to understand and deal with purification as the unbelieving 1<sup>st</sup> generation dies.

'The one who touches the corpse of any person shall be unclean for seven days.

Num 19:12 'That one shall purify himself from uncleanness with the water on the third day and on the seventh day, *and then* he will be clean; but if he does not purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day, he will not be clean.

- If a man touches a corpse he will be unclean for 7 days.
  - Leviticus 11 if a man touches a dead animal he is unclean for only 1 day.
  - This is a ceremonially unclean. It isn't a sin to touch a corpse. It just makes one unclean
  - On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day & 7<sup>th</sup> day they are to be sprinkled with the purifying water. The red heifer water.

Num 19:13 'Anyone who touches a corpse, the body of a man who has died, and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from Israel. Because the water for impurity was not sprinkled on him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is still on him.

- If they remain ceremonially unclean they cannot participate in the holy days. They will be eventually cut off for failure to participate in the community.

- Num 19:14 'This is the law when a man dies in a tent: everyone who comes into the tent and everyone who is in the tent shall be unclean for seven days.
- Num 19:15 'Every open vessel, which has no covering tied down on it, shall be unclean.
- If a man dies in a tent insects that may have touched the body may have then touched other items in the tent. Those things too need to be purified. (see verse 18)
- Num 19:16 'Also, anyone who in the open field touches one who has been slain with a sword or who has died *naturally*, or a human bone or a grave, shall be unclean for seven days.
- Num 19:17 'Then for the unclean *person* they shall take some of the ashes of the burnt purification from sin and flowing water shall be added to them in a vessel.
- The field too needs to be purified.
- Num 19:18 'A clean person shall take hyssop and dip *it* in the water, and sprinkle *it* on the tent and on all the furnishings and on the persons who were there, and on the one who touched the bone or the one slain or the one dying *naturally* or the grave.
- A dead persons tent and furnishings need to be purified.
- Num 19:19 'Then the clean *person* shall sprinkle on the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day; and on the seventh day he shall purify him from uncleanness, and he shall wash his clothes and bathe *himself* in water and shall be clean by evening.
- Num 19:20 'But the man who is unclean and does not purify himself from uncleanness, that person shall be cut off from the midst of the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD; the water for impurity has not been sprinkled on him, he is unclean.
- It is interesting to see that time does not rectify the situation of uncleanness. He must be purified God's way. His uncleanness will remain with him.
- Num 19:21 'So it shall be a perpetual statute for them. And he who sprinkles the water for impurity shall wash his clothes, and he who touches the water for impurity shall be unclean until evening.
- Num 19:22 'Furthermore, anything that the unclean *person* touches shall be unclean; and the person who touches *it* shall be unclean until evening."

- As Christians we become ceremonially unclean also. Jesus demonstrates this very same cleansing to the church as He washed the disciples feet.
  - John 13:5-11 " Then He poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?"  
Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter."  
Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!"  
Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." (cut off??)  
Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head."  
Jesus said to him, "He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you."
- All the ingredients mixed in with the burning of the red heifer point to Jesus. These ashes mixed with the water (the Word and the Holy Spirit) when sprinkled on the unclean purifies them.
  - Hebrews 9:13-14 " For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

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