

Numbers 19:1-22 **Red Heifer and Water of Purification**

The Red Heifer

¹ Now the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, ² "This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying: 'Speak to the children of Israel, that they bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come.

Killing and burning of the Red Heifer

³ You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, that he may take it outside the camp, and it shall be slaughtered before him; ⁴ and Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger, and sprinkle some of its blood seven times directly in front of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁵ Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight: its hide, its flesh, its blood, and its offal shall be burned. ⁶ And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet, and cast them into the midst of the fire burning the heifer. ⁷ Then the priest shall wash his clothes, he shall bathe in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp; the priest shall be unclean until evening. ⁸ And the one who burns it shall wash his clothes in water, bathe in water, and shall be unclean until evening.

Ashes of the Red Heifer

⁹ Then a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and store them outside the camp in a clean place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for the water of purification; it is for purifying from sin. ¹⁰ And the one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until evening. It shall be a statute forever to the children of Israel and to the stranger who sojourns among them.

Use of the ashes of the Red Heifer

¹¹ 'He who touches the dead body of anyone shall be unclean seven days. ¹² He shall purify himself with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; 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. ¹³ Whoever touches the body of anyone who has died, and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of the LORD. That person shall be cut off from Israel. He shall be unclean, because the water of purification was not sprinkled on him; his uncleanness is still on him.

¹⁴ 'This is the law when a man dies in a tent: All who come into the tent and all who are in the tent shall be unclean seven days; ¹⁵ and every open vessel, which has no cover fastened on it, is unclean. ¹⁶ Whoever in the open field touches one who is slain by a sword or who has died, or a bone of a man, or a grave, shall be unclean seven days. ¹⁷ And for an unclean person they shall take some of the ashes of the heifer burnt for purification from sin, and running water shall be put on them in a vessel. ¹⁸ A clean person shall take hyssop and dip it in the water, sprinkle it on the tent, on all the vessels, on the persons who were there, or on the one who touched a bone, the slain, the dead, or a grave. ¹⁹ The clean person shall sprinkle the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day; and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, wash his clothes, and bathe in water; and at evening he shall be clean.

²⁰ 'But the man who is unclean and does not purify himself, that person shall be cut off from among the assembly, because he has defiled the sanctuary of the LORD. The water of purification has not been sprinkled on him; he is unclean. ²¹ It shall be a perpetual statute for them. He who sprinkles the water of purification shall wash his clothes; and he who touches the water of purification shall be

unclean until evening. 22 Whatever the unclean person touches shall be unclean; and the person who touches it shall be unclean until evening.' " NKJV

Facts Revealed:

This is the Ordinance of the law God commanded Moses & Aaron of purification for the Children of Israel.

The Red Heifer

- ✧ A heifer completely red with no blemish or defect, and one on which no yoke has been laid, one which has not been used for work of any kind.
- ✧ This represents the sinless life God desires for Israel, and in that manner the red heifer stands for a perfect substitute for the Children of Israel, of whom God claims to be her husband (provider) and as Christ is to the Church. [Jeremiah 31:31-32, 2 Corinthians 11:2]
- ✧ The ashes of the sinless red heifer may then be used for purification of that which has been defiled.

Killing and burning of the Red Heifer

- ✧ The sinless substitute is killed and burned outside the camp with cedar, hyssop, and scarlet.
 - ◇ This pictures Jesus, God's sinless Sacrifice, Who was killed outside the camp bearing the sins of the world.
 - ◇ Jesus suffered the burning of the wrath of God against the sins of the world when God turned His back on Jesus while He was on the cross providing the cleansing that purifies us from our sins.
 - ◇ The blood is sprinkled before the Tabernacle of Meeting depicting that it is the blood that stands between a Holy God and sinful man to cover the sinner and make him acceptable before God.
 - ◇ Cedar Wood represents the enduring significance of the Cross.
 - ◇ Scarlet represents the Blood of Christ which was shed for our cleansing from sin.
 - ◇ Hyssop represents Bitterness of sin and cleansing power of God's grace. Hyssop was the branch used to give Jesus a drink of vinegar just before He died for the sins of the World
- ✧ The Priest shall wash his cloths, bathe in water, return to camp and be unclean until evening.
- ✧ The one who burned the Red Heifer shall wash his cloths, bathe in water and be unclean until evening.

Ashes of the Red Heifer

- ✧ A clean person shall gather the ashes of the Red Heifer and store them outside the camp in a clean place, wash his cloths, bathe in water, and be unclean until evening.
- ✧ The ashes shall be kept for the congregation of the Children of Israel for the Water of Purification. It is for purifying from sin.
 - ◇ The ashes are kept for all future use of purification depicting the enduring power of the sacrifice of Jesus once for all in providing the means of purification for uncleanness forever. [Romans 6:10, Hebrews 7:22-27, 9:11-12, 10:8-10]
- ✧ It is a statute forever for the Children of Israel and for the Stranger sojourning among them.
- ✧ Without purification, we defile the Sanctuary of Yehowah.