

Title: The Red Heifer  
Text: Numbers 19: 1-22  
Date: March 31, 2024  
Place: Philippians

**Numbers 19: 1: And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, 2: This is the ordinance of the law which the LORD hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke:**

**Subject:** The Red Heifer

In the old covenant law, God commanded that if any were unclean then before they could partake of the passover they must be purified by the water of separation made from the ashes of a red heifer. In John 11, they went up to be purified by the sprinkling of the water of purification from the red heifer.

John 11: 55: And the Jews' passover was nigh at hand: and many went out of the country up to Jerusalem before the passover, to purify themselves.

That was the last time a red heifer was sacrificed. In the news we have heard that right now Israel has four red heifers that they plan to sacrifice on the Jew's passover in a few weeks the second week in April. They believe then they will be clean so they can rebuild a third temple. They believe then their messiah will come the first time. But to build that temple, Israel must first tear down the Dome of the Rock which is the Muslim's temple. The Hamas spokesperson said Hamas attacked Israel due to these red heifers and Israel's plan to rebuild the temple. There is prophecy that seems to speak of this which says our Savior will return for the second time then. We do not know when our Lord will return but one day we will be within a few weeks of our Lord's return. It makes us hopeful it is soon.

**Proposition:** But those Christ has sanctified in heart know that the sacrifice has already been offered. The red heifer is Christ whose blood purges our consciences by the Spirit.

Hebrews 9: 13: For if the blood...and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

**SANCTIFIED BY THE WILL OF OUR LORD JESUS**

**Numbers 19: 2...the red heifer [must be] without spot, wherein [is] no blemish, [and] upon which never came yoke.**

This heifer could have no yoke. It could go where it would. Christ fulfilled the will of God for his people willingly.

"Red" pictures Christ covered in his blood on the cross.

Revelation 19:13: And he [was] clothed with a vesture dipped in blood:... 15: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

A "heifer" is a virgin female cow--the female is the weaker vessel. (1 Peter 3:7). Our Lord Jesus took the weak flesh of God's elect.

Hebrews 2: 14: Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15: And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16: For verily he took not on *him* the nature of angels; but he took on *him* the seed of Abraham. 17: Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto *his* brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted.

Christ accomplished reconciling his people to God by justifying us from our sins and Christ knows the weakness of our flesh. That is why Christ does not deal with us after our sins. It is why he has pity on us as a father his children. He knows we are dust. But being God he is able to succour--to sanctify, comfort and strengthen us in the new man, when tempted.

"*Without spot or blemish*"--over there now, Israel has put up those four red heifers to examine them to make sure they have no spot or blemish--not even one off-colored hair--but no red heifer will be what Christ is nor do what Christ did. The virgin heifer without spot or blemish typifies Christ who is THE HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL, the only Holy Man to walk this earth from the womb unto the tomb.

Hebrews 9: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

"*Upon which never came a yoke*"--Christ sanctified and made us holy and righteous by his will. The Son of God willingly became Surety for God's elect from eternity. He willingly became incarnate! He willingly obeyed God, even to the death of the cross. He said,

“No man takes my life from me, I lay it down of myself.” (Jn 10)

Isaiah 50:6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

Christ sanctified his people by his will fulfilling God's will. Sanctification is not by our will.

Hebrews 10: 7: Then said I, Lo, I come...to do thy will, O God... 10: By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once.

## **OUR SUBSTITUTE WAS NUMBERED WITH THE TRANSGRESSORS**

**Numbers 9: 3: And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and *one* shall slay her before his face:...**

Christ bore the sin of God's elect and therefore was numbered with the transgressors.

Aaron was the High Priest, Eleazar his son was also a priest. Both typify Christ our one High Priest. Aaron must not be made unclean. But Eleazar became unclean by offering this sacrifice. The Lord Jesus is our holy HIGH Priest--harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Else, he could not be our sin-atonement Substitute. But in order for God to pour out justice on him--for Christ to make atonement for the sin of his people,

2 Corinthians 5: 21: He who knew no sin was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Brethren, Christ crucified manifests God's holy righteousness. God is just! He would not pour out wrath on Christ until he made Christ sin for his people. “He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both [are] abomination to the LORD” (Proverbs 17:15).

"*Without the camp*" is where unclean lepers were quarantined away from everyone else. When the spotless Lord Jesus bore the sin of God's elect, God numbered him with the transgressors without the camp. Then Christ bore the fire of God's wrath like as the red heifer was burned without the camp.

Hebrews 13: 12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Christ said if we believe and preach him as both our righteousness and sanctification then we shall suffer reproach from sinners who hate God.

Hebrews 13: 13: Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

## SANCTIFIED BY CHRIST'S BLOOD IN REGENERATION

**Numbers 19: 4: And Eleazar the priest shall take of her blood with his finger, and sprinkle of her blood directly before the tabernacle of the congregation seven times:**

The tabernacle represents the whole church of God--each of God's elect, each one Christ redeemed. "*Eleazar the priest sprinkled the blood*"--Christ our High Priest gets all the glory for sprinkling his blood upon us and sanctifying his people. The Spirit purges our conscious inwardly by Christ's blood.

We do not have room to glory in our sanctification--the glory goes to Christ alone. We do not EVEN get to glory that we sanctified ourselves by the help of the Holy Spirit. Christ our High Priest gets all the glory for our sanctification the same as for our justification! When he is made unto us Sanctification then we will glory in him alone!

Hebrews 9: 13: For if the blood...and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

He sprinkled the blood "*seven times*"—the number of perfection. When the Spirit purges our conscious with Christ's blood, he makes us see Christ made us holy by his one offering.

Hebrews 10: 14: by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. 15: *Whereof* the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: [He writes the covenant of the gospel in our hearts and minds, declaring]...17:...their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. 18: Now where remission of these *is, there is no more offering for sin.*

That is how Christ's blood purges us from trying to do dead works to justify or sanctify ourselves.

## CHRIST BORE THE FIRE OF JUSTICE

**Numbers 19: 5: And *one* shall burn the heifer in his sight; her skin, and her flesh, and her blood, with her dung, shall he burn: 6: And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast *it* into the midst of the burning of the heifer.**

No part of the red heifer was exempted from burning. Christ gave himself entirely on the cross to the fire of God's wrath in place of his people. That is how Christ declared God just and that is how Christ justified and sanctified his people

"*Cedar wood*" is fragrant. "*Hyssop*" represents Christ's faithfulness. "*Scarlet*" represents his blood. Christ so honored the Father by his faithfulness, pouring out his life's blood, that his offering came up fragrant to God like cedar wood.

## CONTINUAL RENEWING BY CHRIST'S BLOOD

**Numbers 19: 7: Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even. 8: And he that burneth her shall wash his clothes in water, and bathe his flesh in water, and shall be unclean until the even....10: And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever.**

Notice that even the men who did this service for God in obedience were made unclean. Christ must make even our worship and service clean by his blood. Even the men who did this holy service were defiled in the process. Christ, by his blood, must purge us to make our preaching and worship and service clean before God. Christ continues to renew us inwardly, purging us, because even our worship and service is made clean only by Christ's blood.

## DEFILED WHEN WE DO NOT KNOW IT

As you read this next passage, notice that anywhere they turned they would touch death and be defiled.

**Numbers 19: 11: He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days. 12: He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean. 13: Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him. 14: This is the law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days. 15: And every open vessel, which hath no covering bound upon it, is unclean [if an unseen, dead gnat was in water, they were unclean—we drink iniquity like water when we don't even realize it]. 16: And whosoever toucheth one that is slain with a sword in the open fields, or a dead body, or a bone of a man, or [even walks over an unknown] grave, shall be unclean seven days.**

God's saint touches a dead body continually: "if Christ be in you the body is dead because of sin." God's law declares we are defiled due to our sin-nature--sin is mixed with everything we do. We do not comprehend how sinful we are in our flesh. Even when doing that which God commands,

Isaiah 64:6: But we are all as an unclean *thing*, and all our righteousnesses *are* as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

Isaiah 40: 6: The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodness thereof *is* as the flower of the field: [how is our flesh mortified and our inward man sanctified] 7: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it:...

We are regenerated once. But we are renewed and washed the rest of our days. Christ alone sprinkles his blood, washing and renewing us by the Holy Spirit--he alone makes us put off the old man and put on the new by the renewing of your mind. The glory goes to Christ alone! (We saw it in Romans 8)

We start minding things of the flesh--touch not, taste not, handle not--and we begin to glory that we made ourselves holy. BUT IT IS ALL OUR DEAD FLESH. Then the Spirit of God renews our new man to hear the gospel and turns us to Christ, and by faith we plunge into that fountain open for sin and uncleanness

Hebrews 10: 22: [then we cry Abba, Father--we] draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

## **CHRIST IS THE FOUNTAIN OPEN FOR CLEANSING**

**Numbers 19: 9: And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a purification for sin. [it is Christ at God's right hand]...17: And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of purification for sin, and RUNNING WATER shall be put thereto in a vessel: 18 And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water...19: And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be clean at even.**

Washing ourselves, here, typifies believing on Christ. But Christ is the Clean person who sprinkles his blood by the Spirit so that we believe and keep believing on him.

Zechariah 12:10: And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn."

Ac 26:18 [Christ sent Paul so that through the gospel, Christ] open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

"*The running water*" is living water. God the Holy Spirit is continually washing and renewing us by the water by the Word" (John 16:7-14). Christ works in such Power that when a sinner is truly sanctified, we do not boast, we cannot boast, that we washed ourselves but glory only in the Lord.

Has Christ washed you inwardly this hour? Then come let us plunge into this fountain

Zechariah 13:1: In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."

Come confessing to God that you are sin and all your righteousnesses are sin and believe on Christ Jesus.

1 John 1: 9: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Amen!**