

Numbers 19 - The Red Heifer

Num 19:1-22 ESV Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 2 "This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the people of Israel to bring you **a red heifer without defect, in which there is no blemish,**

- **Similar to the passover lamb - symbolic of Christ as well** - 1Pe 1:18-19 ESV knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of **a lamb without blemish or spot.**
- Joh 19:6 ESV Pilate said to them, "Take him yourselves and crucify him, **for I find no guilt in him.**"

and on which a yoke has never come.

- **He was not forced into submission, but WILLINGLY died** - Joh 10:17-18 ESV For this reason the Father loves me, because **I lay down my life** that I may take it up again. 18 **No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.** I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

3 And you shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and it shall be taken **outside the camp and slaughtered before him.**

- **He died outside the camp** - Heb 13:12 ESV So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

4 And 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.**

- **Seven - showing that it was a complete perfect sacrifice** - Heb 12:24 ESV and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

5 And the heifer shall be burned in his sight. Its skin, its flesh, and its blood, with its dung, shall be burned.

- **Jesus was totally consumed as a sacrifice in the sight of the priests** - Mar 15:29-31 ESV ...[people were mocking] 30 save yourself, and come down from the cross!" 31 **So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him** to one another, saying, "He saved others; he cannot save himself.

6 And the priest shall take **cedarwood** and **hyssop** and **scarlet yarn**, and throw them into the fire burning the heifer.

These same 3 ingredients [Cedar, Scarlet Wool and Hyssop] - were used in cleansing the leper also - Lev 14:2-7 ESV

Cedars of Lebanon - used to burn a sacrifice

- Isa 40:16 ESV **Lebanon would not suffice for fuel**, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
 - There is not enough wood, nor animals to sacrifice the can pay the price
 - Yet **ONE WOODEN CROSS - and ONE LAMB OF GOD** can

Hyssop points to salvation and the forgiveness of sin

- It was used to **smear the blood of the passover** lamb on the doorpost - Exo 12:22 ESV
- **David's prayer of repentance after adultery - Psa 51:7 ESV Purge me with hyssop**, and I shall be **clean**; wash me, and I shall be **whiter than snow**.

Scarlet wool - points to sin

- Isa 1:18 ESV "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though **your sins are like scarlet**, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like **crimson**, they shall become like wool.

All three of these ingredients were at the crucifixion

- **The wood** of the cross
- The **scarlet robe** & the sin taken upon himself- Mat 27:28 ESV
- **The hyssop** -
 - Joh 19:29-30 ESV ...they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. 30 When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, "**It is finished**," and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Clean becomes Unclean & the Unclean becomes Clean

7 ...But the priest shall be **unclean** until evening
8 The one who burns the heifer ...shall be **unclean** until evening.
9 **And a man who is clean** shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and[and he would be]...**unclean** until evening

...but The ashes were kept for the **water for impurity [i.e. to make the unclean clean again]**

Those who killed The Red Heifer are unclean - Luk 23:34 ESV 34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Jesus himself "the CLEAN" became UNCLEAN so that the UNCLEAN can become CLEAN

- 2Co 5:21 ESV For our sake **he made him to be sin** who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

These ashes would be kept, and mixed with water to be used for the "Water for Impurity"

The Water for Impurity

Vs 11-22 Whoever touches the dead body ... Even if you are in close proximity (*everyone in the tent*) -and does not cleanse himself.... shall be cut off from Israel; because the water for impurity was not thrown on him

How could they avoid touching the dead? - do the math

- 3,000,000 in wilderness --- 13,870 - days (38 years)
- (On average - 9 people an hour died)

The Power of Jesus to Cleanse

Jesus touched a dead body (He is not made unclean by this)

- Luk 8:54-55 ESV. **But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise."** 55 **And her spirit returned**, and she got up at once. And he directed that something should be given her to eat.

We are touched by the ashes of the red heifer when we are saved...

But we also "touch the dead bodies" from time to time and need to be sprinkled again

- Eze 36:25-27 ESV 25 **I will sprinkle clean water on you**, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. 26 **And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**

His work goes far beyond the cleansing of flesh - it purifies my conscience

- Heb 9:13-24 ESV For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the **sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh**, 14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, **purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.**
- Heb 10:21-22 ESV and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in **full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**

It cleanses from unrighteousness

- 1Jn 1:7-10 ESV But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** 10 If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.