

"BE CLEANSED – BE FILLED!"

Numbers Chapters 19-20

CHAPTER 19 – "THE RED HEIFER"

➤ **Theme: God provides moral and spiritual cleansing.**

(v1-10) ***"The Red Heifer"*** - Was a young cow "***without blemish***" that was slaughtered outside the camp of the Israelites and then burned in the fire. Its ashes were used as a SIN OFFERING to bring about PURIFICATION from uncleanness. The need for purification from uncleanness would arise when a person touched a corpse, a human bone, or a grave (Numbers 19:2-17). The entire heifer—its hide, flesh, blood, and intestines—was to be burned. A priest would cast into fire cedar wood (symbolic of durability), hyssop (symbolic of healing, cleansing power), and scarlet thread (probably symbolic of the blood that atones for sin). When a case of uncleanness arose, the ashes of the red heifer were to be mixed in a vessel with "living" (fresh spring) water and sprinkled with hyssop over the unclean person and his dwelling. (from Nelson's Bible Dictionary)

The sacrifice of the red heifer "***without defect of blemish***" prefigures Christ, the Lamb of God without spot or blemish who was sacrificed for our sins. We find another type by the red heifer being taken "***outside the camp***" to be slaughtered, just as we are told in Hebrews 13:11-13 - *For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach.* (cp. John 19:17-18)

C.I. Scofield yields some interesting insights, "***The red heifer***: a type of the sacrifice of Christ as the ground of the cleansing of the believer from the defilement contracted in his pilgrim walk through this world, and an illustration of the method of his cleansing. The order is: (1) the killing of the sacrifice; (2) the sevenfold sprinkling of the blood, typical public testimony before the eyes of all of the complete and never-to-be repeated putting away of all of the believer's sins as before God (Heb. 9:12-14; 10:10-12); (3) the reduction of the sacrifice to ashes which are preserved and become a memorial of the sacrifice and (4) the cleansing from defilement (sin has two aspects—guilt and uncleanness) by sprinkling with the ashes mixed with water. Water is a type of both the Spirit and the Word (Jn. 7:37-39; Eph. 5:26). The operation typified is this: the Holy Spirit uses the Word to convict the believer of some evil allowed in his life that hinders his joy, growth, and service. Thus convicted, he remembers that the guilt of his sin has been met by the sacrifice of Christ (1 Jn. 1:7). Instead, therefore, of despairing, the convicted believer judges and confesses the defiling thing as unworthy of a Christian, and is forgiven and cleansed (Jn. 13:3-10; 1 Jn. 1:7-10).

(v11-22) Within a period of 37 (between Numbers 19:22 and 20:1) years some 1.2 million people will die in the wilderness because of their sin and unbelief. There will be a multitude of dead that must be dealt with as God provides a way of hygienic and spiritual cleansing for those who handle the dead purposely or accidentally.

(New Testament: Romans 3:10-23 & Romans 5:12-21)

CHAPTER 20 – "WATER FROM THE ROCK"

(v1) **A brief eulogy for MIRIAM** - The sister of Moses, was the eldest of that sacred family; and she first appears, probably as a young girl, watching her infant brother's cradle in the Nile, Exodus 2:4, and suggesting her mother as a nurse. ver. 7. After the crossing of the Red Sea "Miriam the prophetess" is her acknowledged title. ch. 15:20. The prophetic power showed itself in her accompanied with music and processions. ch. 15:1-19. She took the lead, with Aaron, in the complaint against Moses for his marriage with a Cushite, Numbers 12:1,2, and for this was attacked with leprosy. This stroke and its removal, which took place at Hazeroth, form the last