

Israel's Red Heifer

by Dr. Rob Lindsted



Numbers 19:1-10

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:

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:

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:

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.

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.

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.

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 forever.

Background for Our Study

If you were to go to Israel, you would find that there are some very important things taking place in terms of Bible Prophecy. One of them has to do with ritual cleanliness. Ritual cleanliness was important to the Israeli people not only when they were in the wilderness, but as well throughout their whole history.

Here's what it says in Hebrews chapter 9 (notice we have gone now from the book of Numbers in the Old Testament all the way to the New Testament book of Hebrews.)

The book of Hebrews (Jews) is written to those who have been converted from Judaism to Christianity. Hebrews 9:11-14 says, *"But Christ came as High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the Holy Place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*



There is nothing more important to the religious Jews than ritual cleanliness!

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This story in Hebrews picks up from Numbers 19. In the Old Testament (the old covenant) there were laws and cleansings and sacrifices and priests. When you come to the New Testament you will find that those old rituals have been replaced by the new covenant. Jesus came and He fulfilled or replaced all the old covenants. He issued a new covenant and that new covenant related to the fact that He died on the cross for all our sins. All the sacrifices of the Old Testament were pictures of the coming Redeemer, the Messiah, the Savior that would be the final sacrifice. That is the background we need to realize when we study current events today in Israel, a land that is still immersed in the old covenants.

One of the most important topics in Israel today would be the building of a new temple. They call it the third temple. The question everyone asks is, "How



will it take place?” Right now, sitting on the Temple Mount is the Dome of the Rock, the third most holy place in the world for the Islamic religion. You can see what a conflict that is! Not just a conflict of religions, but a conflict of ideologies. The Bible has a lot

to say about it and I have talked about it in many of my lessons on YouTube.

Another important topic that goes along with a new temple is restoring the sacrifices. Yes, there is a group of people in Israel today and they are in the process of restoring sacrifices in Israel. The place where they are working on this project is The Temple Institute in Jerusalem. I have visited The Temple Institute over 40 times and I have seen the actual items they are creating based on the Old Testament sacrifices. These are not just replicas or models but are actual items that will be used in temple sacrifices for the nation of Israel.



The Menorah, the priestly garments and one of the implements



All these items... the Menorah, the priests' garments with the proper jewels on the breastplate, the pitcher of libation that held the blood of the calves and goats, the trumpets and many more have been made out of gold or silver exactly as the Bible describes. The religious Jews TODAY are serious about restarting the sacrifice!

The priests in the Old Testament had to be ritually clean to offer sacrifices that atoned for the people's sins. Then when the priest offered the sacrifice for those who were unclean, he became unclean himself. He had to remain outside the city while the person who had brought the sacrifice to the priest were now free to enter into the city. This is where the ashes of the red heifer come into the picture. They were and

are needed to cleanse the priest so he can perform his duties. They were also used to purify all of the vessels. The Temple Institute has all of the vessels ready to go, they have even trained a new generation of priests, but they have no way to purify them for service. **They need the ashes of a perfect red heifer.**

Currents Headlines

Headline from Israel 365 News on September 16, 2022

ISRAEL365 EXCLUSIVE: RED HEIFERS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

“The Temple Institute and Boneh Israel made a huge step towards reinstating the Temple service on Thursday when five red heifers landed at Ben Gurion International Airport.

Here is another article from All Israel News on September 17, 2022

Does the Arrival of 5 Red Heifers in Israel Signal Third Temple, End Times?

Five rabbi-approved red heifers arrived from Texas on Thursday to a ceremonious welcome at Ben-Gurion Airport – and touched off a whirlwind of speculation as to the prophetic significance of their presence in Israel and whether we are barreling toward a third-temple period or the "last days."



From Texas to Israel: Red heifers needed for Temple arrive



The Jerusalem Post September 20, 2022

A Christian farmer in Texas raised the prized heifers which are essential for priests to serve in the Temple.

The Red Heifer Story

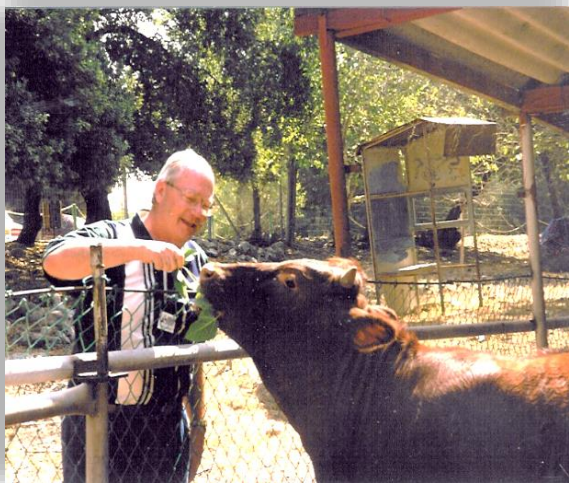
Considering the move in Israel to sacrifice, let's look deeper at this unusual story in the Bible - the ashes of the red heifer or Israel's red heifer. What a story! It is the most unusual, unique and graphic sacrifice of any of them in the Old Testament. It is also a beautiful picture of Christ.

This is a picture that is in The Temple Institute that shows the priest with a red cow and here in the corner I have included a picture of an example of the Qalal (Kelal). The Qalal is the container which holds the ashes of the cremated red heifer.

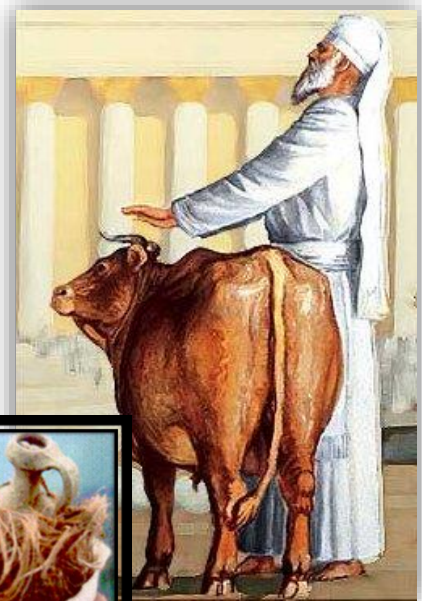
One of the things that is interesting to me in this whole study is how in the world did God ever come up with the idea of such a unique sacrifice using a perfect red heifer?

In Genesis 31, it describes the animals of Jacob. The ones he took from Laban were animals that were spotted and speckled and striped - he took none of a solid color. So how do you go from spotted animals in Genesis 31 to Numbers 19 where you have a totally, completely solid red heifer?

Well, here is what Israel would say... it was a miracle! God provided a solid red heifer in the midst of all the spotted and speckled animals. A matter of fact, I have



visited Israel (over 60 times) and been privileged to see one of the candidates for a new red heifer perfect enough to sacrifice. It was on a dairy farm that had black and white cows, red and white cows, and out of all this somehow or another there was born a totally red cow. That cow was later disqualified when they found several white hairs. Now they are genetically engineering cows to try to breed a perfect red one.



In order for a cow to qualify as a red heifer for this purpose, it must meet the following requirements, as outlined in Numbers 19 (and also in the writings of the oral tradition of the Talmud):

1. The red heifer must be absolutely perfect in its redness. Even two hairs of any other color will disqualify it. Even its hooves must be red.
2. It was to be three years old. Although older animals could be used, younger could not.
3. It must be free of any kind of internal or external defect or blemish.
4. It must not have been used for any type of physical labor and never have been placed under a yoke – not even once! (A yoke was put on an animal to tame its wild nature, so in other words, this shows that it is tame, it is a willing animal.)

Once a red heifer was found, it had to be sacrificed outside the camp. It had to be a complete sacrifice: the blood was shed, the animal was totally burned, and even the dung was burned. As a matter of fact, how they made the Qalal (the container to hold the ashes) is interesting because they would take the animal outside the city and collect some of the dung from the animal. They would mix it with clay and build a specific pot called a Qalal. Once they cremated the red heifer, they would take the ashes and put them into the Qalal.

Pictures of Christ

1. **Red.** Red is the symbol of blood and blood is the symbol of atonement. Jesus on the cross shed His blood for our atonement.
2. **Heifer.** Heifer means it is a female, something that is life-giving, but also I think it is a beautiful picture because the church is referred to as the bride of Christ. In other words, the church is always referred to as female in gender.
3. **No blemishes and no white hairs.** Jesus was perfect. He had no sin. There was no sin in Him. He never even thought to sin. He never had a motive to sin. He, as the perfect one, was willing to bear our sin.
4. **No yoke.** Jesus went to the cross willingly. What a beautiful picture this is!

5. **Outside the camp.** Some sacrifices were done inside by the tabernacle, but the red heifer sacrifice had to be made outside the camp. And isn't it interesting that Jesus was crucified on a cross outside of the city?! As a matter of fact, the Bible says it was a place called Golgotha which means "the place of the skull." In Jerusalem today (outside of the old city), you can see this place. It is where Jesus was crucified, not on top of the hill, but in front of the hill. It is on a public road where all could see called the Damascus Road.



6. **A complete sacrifice.** On the cross, the victory over sin was complete. The death of Jesus, His blood shed, His burial, and His resurrection all made for a complete victory. As He died, He declared, "It is finished." We don't have to work for our salvation! Jesus paid it all. Jesus did all the work on the cross. What a beautiful picture in the ashes of the red heifer and Jesus on the cross.
7. **The priest had to be ritually clean, but as he sacrificed for others, he became unclean.** Here is what the Bible says about Jesus in 2 Corinthians 5:21, "*For God made Him,*" (that's Jesus), "*who knew no sin to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*" When Christ was on the cross, He was not paying for His sin, He was paying for my sin and your sin. It was a complete, total sacrifice, and now you and I are free to enter into Heaven because of that sacrifice.

Do you see what I mean that Christ on the cross is a perfect fulfillment of the ashes of the red heifer sacrifice? No wonder God has not provided a new perfect red heifer in over 1900 years! The sacrifice is over! The result is that unbelieving men are desperately trying to have a perfect heifer engineered. We do know that the antichrist will stop the sacrifices halfway into the tribulation. This means that the Jews will start to sacrifice again at some point. In the current headlines on page 4, we saw that 5 new red heifers have been sent to Israel from Texas which shows how near we are to this time in history.

A Perpetual Sacrifice?

Since the destruction of the Temple in 70 AD, the Jews have not been able to sacrifice... why? Because they don't have the ashes of the red heifer. Tradition says that just before the destruction of the temple, there was a red heifer that was sacrificed and the ashes put into the Qalal.

There have been many searches for the ashes over the years. One of the most famous people leading some of the searches was a man by the name of Vendyl Jones. He was an incredible archaeologist, very unconventional and very unusual. Hollywood patterned a character after him named Indiana Jones and made several movies about his searches. One of the movies was The Raiders of the Lost Ark. I met Vendyl Jones in Israel on a number of occasions. One of those times was in the caves of Qumran where they were actually digging for the ashes of the red heifer.

Back in the Bible after they cremated the first red heifer, eventually the ashes began to run out. If they ran totally out, they would not be able to cleanse the priests that were offering the sin sacrifices. At that point, God provided a second perfect red heifer. They would add the remaining ashes of the first heifer into the Qalal of the second heifer. Then a third heifer, then a fourth, etc. Many believe that the last Qalal would have contained some ashes all the way back to the days of Moses.

Many of the old priests say they must find the original ashes, because it is a continual process. Some of the young rabbis that are now running The Temple Institute say all they need is to find a perfect red heifer that meets all the qualifications. Then they can begin to sacrifice, and they will start the whole process again. It will be interesting to see how this plays out.

Is the “Messiah” coming?

The Jewish people as a whole are still looking for Messiah. They believe that the things they do will help usher him in. (The sad fact is the one they are ushering in is the antichrist.) One of the ways is by building a new Temple! But as we have seen, they cannot do it properly until they have the ashes of the red heifer. The Jewish sage Maimonides believed that the tenth red heifer would only be found and sacrificed when King Messiah was ready to appear.

If you were to go to Israel today, at the entrance to The Temple Mount there is a sign that says, “According to the Torah it is forbidden for any person to enter the area of The Temple Mount, due to its sacredness.” It is signed by the Chief Rabbi. A Jewish man told me that once they find the ashes of the red heifer and purify the priests to begin sacrificing again, they will be able to remove that sign. Then Jews, practicing Jews, will be allowed to go up and begin to pray and sacrifice on the Temple Mount.



We are at a time when every sign of the tribulation is beginning to show! We as Christians may be here to see the start of sacrifices on the Temple Mount, but before the antichrist appears on the scene to stop the sacrifices, the church is gone! Christ will come back, He will give a shout, and when He does, those that are believers will go to be with Jesus in the air.

As we look at these things, would you have believed that animal sacrifice would again become important? Can you imagine the outrage of the world when Israel starts to slaughter hundreds of thousands of animals? Yet, the Bible said it would happen and we are getting to see the beginning of it all! Jesus could come at any minute. He is the sacrifice, the red heifer that makes it possible for my sins to be transferred to Him and I accept Him as my Savior. My friend that is the only way to be ready for the rapture. How about you, my friend? Are you ready if Jesus were to come today?



A video presentation by Rob Lindsted on the Ashes of the Red Heifer is available to watch free on YouTube, **Bible Truth in Prophecy #22**.