



Jun

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# Chukat

Author // Carl & Julie Parker Posted in // [Sheepfold Gleanings](#) / 2010-2011

**Parashah en Español, [Aquí].**

Numbers 19:1 to 22:1

Judges 11:1-33

John 3:1-21; 4:3-30; 12:27-50

The red heifer sacrifice has always been a great mystery in Scripture. To fully comprehend the importance of this study we go back to Exodus 24:3-11 where Yahweh gives His Mosaic Covenant to the people of Israel. Scripture says, "They all responded with one voice, '**Everything Yahweh has said we will listen to do.**'" Moses then wrote down everything Yahweh had said.

The *season* when this took place was the culmination of the counting of the Omer and the Feast of Shavuot/Pentecost. The *occasion* was the betrothal of Yahweh to the people of Israel and the giving of the marriage covenant called in Hebrew the *Ketubah* (ie: the Torah: Yahweh's teaching and instruction), to the bride.

The Hebrew phrase "*Na'aseh v'nishma!*" the people cried out in unison (translates "Everything Yahweh has said, we will listen to do") teaches us the principles to free ourselves from the shackles of our own stubbornness. The key to a successful and holy lifestyle is to accept whole-heartedly the challenges and, yes, the so-called burdens of the truth before us, realizing that the fuller depth of Yahweh's truth may not yet be seen or grasped by our minds. However we must realize that *always* placing service and a holy walk of life to Yahweh is above all other considerations.

And he [Moses] rose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars according to the twelve tribes of Israel. Then he sent young men of the children of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to Yahweh. And Moses took half the blood and put it in basins, and half the blood he sprinkled on the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read [it again] in the hearing of the people. And they said, "**All that Yahweh has said we will do, and be obedient.**" And Moses took the blood, **sprinkled it on the people**, and said, "**This is the blood of the covenant which Yahweh has made with you according to all these words** (Exodus 24:4-8).

In Hebrews 9:19 in the New Testament/*Brit Chadasha* is more detail of what occurred at this event. "When Moses had proclaimed every commandment of the Torah to all the people, **he took the blood of calves, together with water, scarlet wool and branches of hyssop, and sprinkled the scroll and all the people.**"

This is the *red heifer* ceremony and this is the background to our study this week.

## Numbers 19:1-9 The Red Heifer

The killing of the red heifer and keeping of the heifer's ashes were commandments for purification. Yahweh's requirements were for Eleazar the High Priest to choose a red heifer that was without defect or blemish and that had never been under a yoke. He was then to take it outside the camp and slaughter it. Some of its blood was then to be sprinkled seven times toward the front of the Tabernacle. This was to be a lasting ordinance for the children of Israel and those sojourning with them *throughout their generations* (Numbers 19:2, 9, 10, 21).

Under Eleazar the High Priest's supervision, the heifer was burned outside the camp in its entirety – its hide, flesh, blood and offal, along with some *cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool*. Later the High Priest cleansed himself (had a *mikvah*, Hebrew for water immersion for status change from unclean to clean) and changed from his High Priests garments into Priestly clothes and returned to camp.

The man who burned the red heifer also had a *mikvah* and changed his clothes before re-entering the camp.

A man who was ceremonially clean gathered up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a clean place outside the camp. Then he also changed his clothes and performed a *mikvah* before he too returned to the camp. The ashes were kept for the Israelite community as a whole, to be used in the water cleansing ceremony for purification from sin (sometimes called *holy water* Numbers 5:11-31). *This was to be a lasting ordinance for both the Israelites and those sojourning among them.*

To date there have been nine red heifer sacrifices in Israel's history. Popular thought holds the Messiah as the one who will fulfill the requirement of the tenth red heifer. Let's look into Scripture.

The red heifer was a female cow not older than *three* years that had not yet had a calf. The heifer was a type and shadow of the Messiah. Yeshua is the Word made flesh, born of a virgin, conceived by the Spirit of Yahweh who was without sin, meaning He had never been under the *yoke* of sin and death. Yeshua's earthly ministry was *three* years (John 1:1, 14; Luke 1:26-27; Isaiah 7:14).

Different places have been labeled as the traditional site for the crucifixion of Yeshua. One is the church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, which would have placed the crucifixion/sacrifice inside the camp. Some say that Gordon's Golgotha (meaning skull, head or poll) located just outside the Damascus Gate (also called the Shechem Gate) in the Old City of Jerusalem a relatively new site in history is the crucifixion site. The generally overlooked deeper Hebrew understanding of the word skull is that it is a reference to the top of a man's head. The term 'Calvary' was an adaptation of the Latin *calvaria*, meaning bare or bald head. The term skull was also used to describe the top or summit of a mountain, especially a bare one.

According to Scripture, the red heifer was to be killed outside the camp in a clean or set-apart place. That clean place was historically and biblically understood to be on a separate mountain entirely than Mount Moriah where the Temple stood. The most authentic clean place outside the camp (ie Mount Moriah), was on the Mount of Olives. This mountain opposite Jerusalem has historically been accepted as the scripturally sound, set-apart place for the red heifer sacrifice. Also known as the Skull Mountain in Yeshua's day, the Mount of Olives has long been recognized by the Israelites down through the generations as the place where Yeshua died.

Access to this site was through the eastern gate also called the Golden Gate. The valley between Mount of Olives and Mount Moriah (where Jerusalem is situated) was called the Kidron Valley or Kidron Brook. The blood and water from the temple sacrifices would flow down into the Kidron Valley from the Mount Moriah, between these two mountains. This valley is also called the Valley of Death. Joining the two mountains was a bridge built for the Priests to travel back and forth over this valley, allowed them to travel from one mountain to the other in order for them to perform their sacrificial duties, without coming in contact with death from the unclean flow of the Temple sacrifices. It was called the Priestly Bridge, the Red Heifer's Gangway and the Narrow Way.

In Genesis 17, when Abraham received the Covenant from Yahweh, he was told to sacrifice animals. Traditionally they would be cut in half with the halves placed opposite each other so the blood would flow down each side and into the trough between them. The halved animals can represent two people groups, the House of Israel and the House of Judah (Genesis 15: 1-21).

Similarly, the two mountains situated at Jerusalem represent the two people groups: the House of Israel and the House of Judah. Mount Moriah represents those who are in Torah and the Mount of Olives represents those people outside Torah. Together they represent the *Whole* House of Israel (Jeremiah 31:31-33; Hebrews 8:8-10).

Yeshua is the only mediator between the two people groups. It is only His sinless atoning blood, the original pattern for the red heifer sacrifice that can break down the barriers within people and between the two groups to bring healing; thus uniting them as one people under the Kingship of Yeshua the Messiah/*Ha Mashiach* (Hebrews 9:15; Ephesians 2:11-22).

A phenomenon likened to the halved sacrifices of the Abrahamic Covenant occurred at the time of Yeshua's death. A flow of blood similar to the cutting of first Covenant was seen. One stream flowed from the Temple sacrifices running down one mountain, Mount Moriah, and the blood of Yeshua's sacrifice flowed down the other mountain, Mount of Olives.

Yeshua's one act of faithfulness fulfilled the red heifer sacrifice and literally *re*-newed the Covenant of David sealing it forever. Yeshua restored His people and established the Covenant as if new again so we could walk in it (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Hebrew 8:8-10; Matthew 10:8; 15:24; Romans 11:25-26; Ezekiel 37:15-28).

It was this Priestly bridge called the Narrow Way or Gangway that Yeshua, our Passover Lamb crossed as He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey five days before the Passover to be our Passover Lamb. We are told that all the people held palm branches and waved them, shouting "Hosanna! (Hebrew for *Save us!*) Blessed is He who comes in the Name of Yahweh! Blessed is the King of Israel," thus fulfilling Psalm 118:25-26 and Zechariah 9:9 (John 12:12-15). It was along this bridge that the people proclaimed Messiah Yeshua King of Israel.

And it was this same bridge that carried Yeshua to His death on our behalf a few days later as the final fulfillment of the red heifer requirement.

Enter in at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leads to life and there are few who find it (Matthew 7:13-14).

On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south (Zechariah 4:4).

At the exact moment of Yeshua's death when His blood was shed, there was an earthquake and the inner Temple veil that divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was torn in two from *top* to bottom. This was the hand of Yahweh as no man could tear this curtain. Tradition reports that this curtain measured eighty-two and a half feet high, twenty-four feet wide. The thickness of the curtain was one handbreadth, or three inches, requiring over three hundred men to hang it. (Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45)

## Numbers 19:5-6 The Red Heifer

The red heifer was to be burned outside the camp, with its hide, flesh, blood and offal along with some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool.

**Cedar** can represent strength; it can also represent pride. Our pride makes us think we are long lasting, indestructible and above the Law.

The Talmud says that the inhabitants of Israel called ten different types of trees cedar. It is however, the cedar of Lebanon that was most widely referred to when the word *erez* (cedar) is used in Scripture. The average height of such cedars is about eighty-five feet, though some have measured over a hundred feet, and the circumference may reach forty feet. It is also common for this tree to spread its roots among the rocks, thus securing a stronghold.

There is a particular oil in the cedar that prevents destruction by dry rot and insects in the wood. The oil from cedar can be beneficial as a natural insecticide with purifying properties which include inhibiting fungal growth in the body and respiratory conditions and infections such as coughs, colds, congestions and sinusitis. The oil can help remove toxins, fluid retention, salt and fat from the body and sedate inflammations. It is useful for calming nervous anxiety, arthritis, cystitis and improve skin conditions such as acne, dandruff and psoriasis.

Scriptural references for cedar use in connection with the Temple is in 1 Kings 6:15 and 18, where cedar was used *inside* the Temple and 1 Kings 7:12 where it was used *outside* the Temple. Of all the furniture in the Temple only the altar of incense was made of cedar (1 Kings 6:20).

**Hyssop** represents humility. The word occurs ten times in scripture, primarily in the Five Books of Moses where it was used in purification ceremonies. Hyssop is a small plant that can grow on walls and in Exodus, we read that hyssop functioned as a brush for the Israelites to apply blood to the doorposts and lintels of their homes. In Leviticus 14:4-6, hyssop, along with cedar wood and scarlet thread, was used in a purification ceremony for a man cured of leprosy as well as cleansing from an outbreak of mildew. King David said, "Cleanse

me with hyssop, and I will be clean" (Psalms 51:7). Hyssop means 'holy herb' and has known properties that have the ability to reprogram DNA to restore right order thereby helping cleanse bad thoughts or habits. Hyssop can be used for its antiseptic, disinfecting and anti-infectious properties. It has been beneficial for opening the respiratory system. It is a helpful decongestant and at relieving respiratory infections, coughs, sore throats, bronchial spasms, viral infections and asthma. Hyssop is helpful in cleansing, purifying and reduce fats in tissue and raises low blood pressure. It is good for relieving anxiety, arthritis, bruises, cuts, skin inflammation, indigestion, fatigue, nervous tension, parasites (expelling worms), rheumatism, and healing wounds

Cedar and hyssop, respectively, seem to represent the most magnificent tree and the most insignificant bush.

**Scarlet thread**, in Scripture, represents Yeshua's blood. It refers to the dye obtained from the eggs of the female cochineal scale that attached itself to the kermes oak tree. The word *towla* (Strong's # 8438) is Hebrew for scarlet, worm or crimson. When the female *scarlet worm* was ready to give birth to her young, she would attach her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing herself so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The eggs deposited beneath her body were thus protected until the larvae were hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, the crimson fluid stained the wood surrounding her body, acting as a covering. From the dead bodies of such female scarlet worms the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity were extracted. Some 70,000 cochineal insects are required to manufacture a single pound of the dye.

Scarlet thread was used in such purification ceremonies as the cleansing of the leper (Leviticus 14:4, 6), the leprous house (Leviticus 14:49, 52) and for general ceremonial uncleanness (Number 19:6). The *towla* dye was the color of blood and would be a natural symbol in such a ceremony. **Cedar, hyssop** and **scarlet thread** are all symbols of the Messiah dying on the tree for our sins.

### Numbers 19:17-21 Red Heifer

For an unclean (tzarat) person, ashes from the red heifer, the burnt offering of purification, were put into a jar and fresh living water was poured over them. Then a man who was ceremonially clean would take some hyssop, dip it in the water and sprinkle the person's tent and all the furnishings as well as the people who were there. But if a person who was unclean did not purify himself on the third and seventh day he was cut off from the community because he had defiled the sanctuary of Yahweh; the water of cleansing had not been sprinkled on him and he was unclean. *This was a lasting ordinance for the people of Israel.*

### John 4:5-24 The Samaritan Woman

What was the lineage of the people of Samaria?

Samaria was a region in the Northern Kingdom of Israel inhabited mostly by people of the House of Israel. Assyrians came in during the occupation, settling and intermarrying with the people there (2 Kings 17:5-6, 24). As a result of the Samaritan intermarrying, most people from Judah and the Southern Kingdom when traveling northward would avoid the region as Samaritans were considered unclean or half-blood people. But Scripture was clear that the people who lived in darkness would be redeemed one day.

The book of John chronicles how Yeshua was traveling north and came to a town in Samaria called Sychar near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph (from the House of Israel). Jacob's well was there, and it was at this well at about the *sixth* hour, that Yeshua sat down. While at the well a woman came to draw water and Yeshua asked her for a drink. This woman was surprised that a man from the House of Judah would not only stop in Samaria and ask for a drink of water but ask a *woman* for water and drink from *her cup*.

The sixth hour was a foreshadowing of the time during Yeshua's crucifixion that darkness would come over the whole land, lasting until His death at the ninth hour. It would also be a sign for this woman and her people of the redemption the Messiah would bring *to the lost sheep of the House of Israel* the people who lived in darkness (Matthew 4:16; Matthew 15:24; Mark 15:33).

Nevertheless there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor

Galilee of the Gentiles [those from the House of Israel who have lived among the Nations], by the way of the sea, along the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned (Isaiah 9:1-2).

When Yeshua asked the woman for a drink it was with the understanding that he would be drinking from *her cup*. This cup represented the cup from the Law of Jealousy for the adulterous bride (Numbers 5:5-31). The House of Israel had become an adulterous bride to Yeshua as she had broken her Covenant with Him. A type and shadow of the House of Israel, the Samaritan woman was an adulterous woman who had had five husbands (likened to the five books of Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). Yeshua amazed the woman by declaring to her His knowledge of this, further saying, "...and the one whom you now have is not your husband" meaning that what she was doing now was outside Torah, God's teaching and instructions for her life. She reminded Yeshua who He was – a Jew from the House of Judah – and stated that she was of the House of Jacob/the House of Israel. "How can you ask me for a drink?" she said. At this point the woman was very aware of the separation between the Two Houses of Israel and that the House of Judah was not friendly with her people as they were considered *unclean* for living among the Nations and thought of as a defiled people. Yeshua continued, "If you knew the gift of Yahweh and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you Living Water."

As Israelites, this was *our* cup Yeshua was willing to drink on our behalf. It was not *His* cup as He was sinless before His Father.

Just before Yeshua died He prayed in the garden on the Mount of Olives, "Father, if you are willing, take *this* cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done." The cup He drank for us was for our purification. It was *the cup of the adulterous bride called the Law of Jealousy*. This cup was pressed to His mouth on the end of the *hyssop* stick at His crucifixion (Matthew 26:39).

Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. So when Yeshua had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit (John 19:29-30).

The Samaritan woman revealed that her father was Jacob and that the well belonged to him. "He drank from it as did his sons and his flocks and herds." This was a reference to the Covenant of Abraham for ALL Twelve Tribes of Israel.

Yeshua said, "Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 7:38).

This was prophetic of the redemptive work of the Messiah in renewing the covenant to her. It reveals to us the release of sins for the adulterous bride when she returns to Torah (God's teaching and instruction/her first husband) through repentance, and that she would pass the test for the Law of Jealousy because Yeshua would drink the cup intended for her on her behalf. When she comes to drink her cup at the wedding supper of the Lamb she would be found to be a virtuous Bride. Formerly *lost*, she was now *found* – back under the covering of the Abrahamic Covenant and walking out her redemption according to God's plans (John 8:1-11; Revelation 19:13; 22:1-3).

The Samaritan woman saw that Yeshua was a prophet and said, "Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you Jews [House of Judah] claim that the place where we [House of Israel] must worship is in Jerusalem." Yeshua said, "A time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this Mountain nor in Jerusalem...a time is coming and has now come when true worshippers will worship the Father in *spirit and in truth*" (Jeremiah 31:31-36; Zechariah 4:6).

In the last study (*Korach*) we examined *Spirit and Truth*. Briefly, in Hebrew understanding, *Spirit and Truth* is a reference to the Ark of the Covenant, consisting of two parts: the top section of the ark is the mercy seat which references to a believer's walk in God's mercy given to us in the Abrahamic Covenant (called salvation) which *covers* our guilt and sin trespassed against His word. The bottom section of the ark contains Yahweh's truth – His precepts and principles found in the Mosaic covenant. When believers walk in both they are truly walking in His *Spirit and Truth*.

With joy the woman recognized Yeshua as the Messiah. Her heart opened when she saw the forgiveness offered her and her people, the House of Israel. She ran to the village telling of the "good news," (*good news* is an idiom for the Mosaic Covenant/the Gospel, which is the teaching instruction booklet to the Abrahamic Covenant) and that the one Moses told them about had come! Yeshua stayed among these people two days and showed them the redeemed holy lifestyle of sanctification in the Living Torah. Many came to believe

and put their faith/obedience in Him as their Messiah.

It is Yeshua who cleanses us by His *Spirit and Truth*. Spirit and truth are references to blood and water, what came from Yeshua's pierced side. Yahweh is Spirit and His worshippers must worship Him in Spirit and Truth (Jeremiah 3:6-11).

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, Yahweh made you alive with Yeshua. He forgave us all our sins. Having cancelled the written code with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the stake. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the stake (Colossians 2:13-14).

The word *cross* is the Greek word *strauros* (Strong's # G4716) meaning: an upright stake, especially a pointed one or a cross.

When they came to Yeshua and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Yeshua's side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water [spirit and truth] (John 19:33-34).

And I will pour out on the house of David [all Twelve Tribes] and the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son (Zechariah 12:10).

On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity (to restore David's fallen tent/covenant - Zechariah 13:1 ref. Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16).

In Leviticus 14 we read of the guilt offering requirement for one wanting cleansing for uncleanness (*tzaras*) affliction. The **blood** from that guilt offering was placed on the tip of the right ear, right thumb and right big toe. Then the **oil** of anointing was to be placed on top of the blood was placed - on the right ear, right thumb and right big toe. The remainder of the oil was poured over the head to cleanse from a guilty conscious. In doing this the person was cleansed from uncleanness (*tzaras*) by *spirit and truth* and they were led back to walking in Torah and keeping Yahweh's precepts. This guilt offering was about redeeming that which was lost and learning to walk in sanctification so that the repentant, returning believer would be established by *spirit and truth* (Zechariah 4:6).

Not by might, nor by power but by MY Spirit says Yahweh (Zechariah 4:6).

Yeshua fulfilled all the requirements for the red heifer sacrifice of purification. As an unclean people, this requirement in Torah is one that we could not fulfill, so He fulfilled for us. Yeshua cleansed our impurities once and for all. He was taken outside the camp to a clean place and there was sacrificed. Taking our sin upon Himself literally killed Him.

The *hyssop* requirement for the red heifer sacrifice was evidenced in the drink brought to him on a hyssop branch.

The *scarlet thread* requirement was fulfilled at his death also, for when the sword pierced his side, a scarlet thread of blood and water from His heart poured out.

The fulfillment of the *cedar* requirement was realized in both the wood he carried to the crucifixion site and the altar of incense made of cedar in the Temple which was located in front of the dividing curtain before the ark. When Yeshua died, this dividing curtain was torn into two pieces. This could only happen if Yahweh accepted Yeshua's blood on the heavenly altar of incense.

Scripturally, once a year the altar of incense in the Temple Holy Place needed atonement. This altar was atoned for by Yeshua's blood in the year of His death and eternally once and for all (John 19:29; 1 Kings 6:20, Exodus 30:10).

The cost to fulfill the requirements of the *cup of bitterness* (the law of jealousy for the adulterous bride) and the water of cleansing (with ashes from the red heifer sacrifice to cover the unclean) was Yeshua's death. As part of Israel, we were both that adulterous bride and that dead (*tzaras*) body. We were considered dead in our trespasses/iniquities from our

forefathers and from our own sins *after* we were born again. Yeshua drank our cup and represented on our behalves the red heifer sacrifice. As a result of our adultery and uncleanness we were worthy of death; therefore Yeshua died on our behalves, substituting Himself for us and taking the penalty of death that we deserved. We who believe in Him as Messiah, enter INTO His death and resurrection. And if we die IN Him, we will also rise in resurrection life as He did, as we are His Firstfruits from the dead.

For you died and your life is now hidden with Yeshua in Yahweh (Colossians 3:3).

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people (Psalm 22:6).

Remember the definition of *scarlet* earlier; worm was another word for *scarlet* Strong's # 8438. Whenever scarlet is mentioned in Scripture it is a picture of Yeshua dying on the tree shedding His precious blood – atoning, covering, purifying and redeeming us from our sins. Our sin was dealt with that He might *bring many sons unto glory*. He died for us that we might live through Him.

Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool (Isaiah 1:18).

Just as there were many who were appalled at Him--His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and His form marred beyond human likeness - so will He sprinkle many nations (Isaiah 52:14-15).

Prophecy of Yeshua our Messiah at His crucifixion, that He would sprinkle many people/nations by His blood.

Before Pilate, all the people answered, "*Let His blood be on us and on our children!*" (Matthew 27:25).

This Scripture in Matthew speaks of *future generations!* As believers, we *want* Yeshua's blood to be upon us do we not? This was a cry for all future generations! The law says that whoever touched a dead person needed to be cleansed (Numbers 19 the red heifer sacrifice). We were dead in our transgressions.

Many believers are learning through Yeshua's teaching and instruction/Torah, to separate from the sins that bring death such as bitterness and unforgiveness etc. For those who want to be finished with their old sin nature once and for all, we want and NEED Yeshua's blood to be upon us as it means we are forgiven, absolved and sanctified of our sins. Sins that we, our generations and the whole community committed by having walked outside Yahweh's teaching and instruction give us at Mt Sinai (Exodus 24:3-11).

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God (Ezekiel 36:25-28).

The hand of Yahweh was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of Yahweh and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'O Sovereign Yahweh, you alone know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, "Dry bones, hear the word of Yahweh!" ' And Yahweh said, 'I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am Yahweh.'

So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to it, "This is what the Sovereign Yahweh says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live." ' So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet-- a vast army.

Then he said to me: 'Son of man, these bones are the whole House of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off." Therefore prophecy and say to them: "This is what the Sovereign Yahweh says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. Then

you, my people, will know that I am Yahweh, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I Yahweh have spoken, and I have done it, declares Yahweh' (Ezekiel 37:1-14).

Surely Yahweh is my salvation [the Hebrew word for salvation is *Yeshua*]; I will trust and not be afraid. Yahweh, Yahweh, is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation [Yeshua]. With joy you will draw Water from the wells of salvation [Yeshua] (Isaiah 12:2-3).

There were many followers of Yeshua at the time who believed He was the Messiah spoken about by the prophets. When Yeshua rode into Jerusalem on a donkey days before His death they were the ones who shouted "Hosanna, Hosanna, save us completely." At his death, believers knew this would confirm His Covenant to them.

We **want** Yeshua's blood to be upon us and our future generations, as it is eternal LIFE!

The scripture in Matthew 27:25, "Let His blood be on us and on our children," has been misunderstood for years. The *Jewish* people for thousands of years have been falsely accused of Yeshua's murder. Many people and people groups, including the Church, have done terrible atrocities to the Jewish people all because this Scripture had been taken out of its scriptural context. Would the crusades, inquisition, pogroms, holocausts, terrorism, the thousands of murders and threats against the innocent Jewish people ever have taken place if this scripture was understood and taught correctly?

*Yeshua is the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world* (Revelation 13:8).

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was upon Him and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). This is prophecy of Yeshua's death and His blood "*sprinkled upon us*", which cleanses and heals us from the sins of our forefathers.

So will he *sprinkle* many nations (Isaiah 52:15).

Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His *wounds* you have been healed (1 Peter 2:24).

When Moses received the Covenant at Mount Sinai, the Israelite community with him represented not only themselves but also all their future generations – those of us as yet unborn but carried within their DNA. It was as if we were standing there with our ancestors when Moses sprinkled the blood of the covenant upon the people as their DNA is in our blood.

We were there with the twelve disciples (who represented the twelve tribes of Israel and their companions) when Yeshua took the bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body broken for you."

We were there when Yeshua "took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them saying, "Drink from it, ALL OF YOU. This is MY BLOOD OF THE COVENANT, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

**Note:** In Numbers 15, when the wine offering (representing Yeshua) was introduced with the Minchah (meal offering of unleavened bread called challah), the wine and bread were from that time onwards always to be offered together. It was to be served for all special vows, freewill offerings and **ALL** Yahweh's Feast days, including Shabbat and New Moon/*Rosh Chodesh* celebrations, not just at Passover (Numbers 15:3; 28:9-40).

Every time we break bread and drink the wine we are remembering the *Covenant* that Yeshua made with us. When we do this the Bride is saying, "*We will do everything Yahweh has said; we will obey the marriage covenant with You.*"

(The Minchah offering – Leviticus 2; Numbers 15:4; John 6:35. Numbers 15:5; Matthew 26:26-27.)

As believers, we were there when Yeshua died and we cried, "His blood be upon us and upon our children." We are that generation of children that received Yeshua's blood upon us

(Exodus 24:3-11).

This is the One who came by water and blood, Yeshua the Messiah. He did not come by water only, but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit bears witness because the Spirit is the truth. There are three witnesses – the Spirit, the water, and the blood – and these three are in agreement (1 John 5:6-8 CJB).

Yeshua fulfilled the red heifer sacrifice. We as believers and part of Israel have been an unclean/*tzarat* people. If we choose rebellion and continue to sin after being born again, we have no hope of restoration without repentance (Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-31).

Yeshua restored us to Himself by nailing our impurity to the stake. He atoned the altar of incense and drank our cup. He has cleansed us so that we can now be a sweet aroma to our Father. As Yeshua was a Living sacrifice we are to be living holy sacrifices today with Him (Romans 12:1). He died our death. We too must enter that death to our sinful nature and overcome our sins if they continue to war within us, so we too can participate in His resurrection life and enter eternity, the eighth day/ today.

Peter's letter was addressed to the Twelve Tribes and those sojourning with them. "To Yahweh's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of Yahweh, the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for the obedience to Yeshua [the Covenant] and ***sprinkling by His Blood***" (1 Peter 1:2).

You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Yahweh through Yeshua (1 Peter 2:5).

They [*believers who once walked in a sanctified life/Davidic Covenant*] stumbled because they disobeyed [*did not die to their sinful nature*]the message [*the Mosaic Covenant given at Mount Sinai, Yahweh's teaching and instruction through Moses*] which is also what they were destined for! [*The Davidic Covenant ushers the bride into the wedding with her Bridegroom Yeshua, but the Mosaic Covenant precedes it to restore the heart of the believer Amos 9:11; Acts 15:15-17*] But you [*believers*] are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to Yahweh, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful Light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of Yahweh; once you had not received mercy but now you have received mercy [*because of now understanding how to walk in obedience to Yahweh's teaching and instruction (Torah) and to crucify the sinful nature*] (1 Peter 2:8-9 ref. Hosea 2:25).

Now you yourselves [*believers*] are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man [*The bride is an overcomer - Revelation 21:7-8*] who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him (Colossians 3:8-10).

And you [*believer*], being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh [*has put to death the sinful nature*], He [*Yeshua*] has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:13-15).

Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways [walked in Torah].' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' " Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:7-13).

Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Yeshua/Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us 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. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful (Hebrews 10:19-23).

## 1 Kings 4:33 Solomon's Wisdom

He spoke three thousand proverbs and his songs numbered a thousand and five. He described plant life, from the *cedar* of Lebanon to the *hyssop* that grows out of the wall.

The mention of the cedar and hyssop plant together to the uninformed may just look like big plant versus little plant. But perhaps King Solomon, who received wisdom from Yahweh understood that only the Messiah of Israel could fulfill the red heifer requirement for purification. "Men of all nations came to listen to Solomon's wisdom, sent by all the kings of the world, who heard of his wisdom (1 Kings 4:30).

When Yeshua came as high priest of the good things that are already here, He went through the greater and more perfect Tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean. How much more, then, will the blood of Yeshua, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts of useless rituals that lead to death, so that we may serve the Living Yahweh (Hebrews 9:11-14)!

He has showed you. O man, what is good. And what does Yahweh require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God (Micah 6:8).

Selah.

In Numbers 20-21, the Israelites arrived at the Desert of Zin near Kadesh. Miriam died there and the community grumbled against Moses for lack of water. This time it was out of their fear not out of anger that they quarreled with Moses. When Moses and Aaron were called to *speak* to the Rock for a miraculous flow of water they spoke *harshly* to the Israelites and in their own anger struck the rock of their provision/salvation.

To misrepresent the Word of Yahweh was a grievous error. Yahweh intended for the sheep to be led in mercy and truth not struck with harsh words. The show of a stony heart rendered Moses and Aaron unclean and just as the Israelites before them had been judged unfit to enter the Land, they too were prevented from entering in.

The parsha ends with the Israelites being denied permission by the Edomites to pass through their borders (Esau's lineage and territory). At this time when the Israelites were close to the Edomite border at Mount Hor, Aaron's death was eminent but before this would happen, he needed to pass on to his eldest son Eleazar the position and blessing of High Priest. As the High Priest garments were placed on Eleazar, Aaron died before the whole community. They stayed at Hor and mourned him thirty days.

The Israelites continued their journey passing the Red Sea to avoid Edom. En route to the Land, community again began to grumble against Moses again due to their lack of water.

Lack of bread and water was a direct result of their attitudes (*lashon hara*) toward the Living Word. This dried up the Living Water and made the manna tasteless. In other words their hearts rendered Yeshua and Torah unpalatable to them.

Yahweh sent poisonous snakes among them and at this they cried out in repentance for Yahweh to save them. When Moses lifted up a bronze snake on a pole and the people looked upon it, they lived. This reflected the love and forgiveness of Yahweh for them, as the bronze snake foreshadowed Yeshua and how He would die lifted up on a stake for our deliverance. Those who cried out and looked upon Him (His Word, Torah) lived.

As the Israelites traveled toward Moab and the Amorites (Lot's descendants), they camped at Oboth (*meaning desires*), Iye Abarim (*mountain beyond*), Zered Valley (*brook*), and Arnon (*rushing water*). From there they continued to Beer (*a well*), where they were given water. They then traveled into the desert to Mattanah (*gift of Yahweh*), Nahaliel (*valley of Yahweh*), Bamoth (*high places*) to the valley in Moab. The people of Moab refused to give them passage through their land. Instead they entered into war with them and lost their land to the Israelites.

*To be continued...*

Shabbat Shalom,

Carl and Julie Parker

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