

THE RED HEIFER

**Good morning... Glory to Jesus Christ!**

A new preacher at his first service had a picture of water and a glass on the podium. As he preached, he would take a drink until finally all the water was gone.

How did you like the preacher? "He was O, but that's the first windmill I've ever seen that is run by water." – hope that isn't me today.

Over the past few weeks, the Holy Spirit has been **painting a tapestry for us** about what is coming for each of us individually and as a Church.

- Roy – there's no chasm between us and God because of Christ. When we can just have eyes to see Him, He's working already in our lives every minute.
- Bill – new wineskins are coming for us
- Jack – Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever
- Bill – during service: throw off the sin-consciousness that is dogging you **from your past**;

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- in the sermon: **God's thoughts are greater** than ours, and we can be **washed clean** by **the Living Water** that Jesus offers free of charge.

I said that the **Holy Spirit** was painting a tapestry because none of these brothers developed their individual messages in order to conform to some approved theme chosen beforehand by the elders for January–February. It's like each person came up and painted on part of a canvas that fits exactly into a masterpiece.

Roy's point –> *when we take the time , we see Him working already in our lives every minute.*

- I know this is a concept that intellectually we can affirm, **but do we really believe it?**
- Can we see prophecy fulfilled *when we're in the middle of it?*
  - John 16:13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to

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you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you."

- Is God really working this out right here? Well, my presentation today was the one I had last week but left in the car -- well, I did leave it in the car but that's not why Bill spoke – he spoke because the Spirit told Him to speak. And, the point of my message is almost exactly the same as Bill's last week – even with some of the same scriptures – but it comes at it from a different angle. Coincidence? I don't think so.

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This is happening because God has decided to make it happen. It isn't happening because we're so holy, or because of:

- our casual dress code, or
- because of our diverse hair styles, or
- because of a great music ministry, or
- because of the number of our divinity degrees
- it's not even happening because people whose lives could be described as "outside of the box" feel comfortable here – *& you know who you are!*

It's happening because God has chosen to do it for His name's sake.

- What is amazing to us is that we are beginning to SEE it happen. We're actually *EXPECTING* it to happen.
- That's not the reason **WHY** it is happening, but it is how we can tell **THAT** it is happening.
- It's what an old Catholic priest friend described as EXPECTANT FAITH... we **EXPECT** that God will be acting and so we begin to look for it, and that's why we're starting to see **NOW** the things that He's been **DOING ALL ALONG**.

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My prayer is that the Holy Spirit will make up for any failings on my part to deliver what he intends. OK – let's begin.

**SLIDE: MOSES WROTE ABOUT JESUS**

- Most here know that I get excited about the OT – especially the first five books called the Torah, which were written by Moses – the reason I get excited is that **it's all about Jesus.**
- **Read:** Jesus, talking to the Pharisees, said: “For **if** you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for ***he wrote about Me.*** But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?” John 5:46–47

This morning, we're going to look at Numbers Chapter 19, which describes one of the most mysterious rituals in the O.T.

**IT IS THE RITUAL OF THE RED HEIFER.**

Rabbi Chaim Richman, who is a director of the Temple Institute in Jerusalem summed up the Jewish perspective on the ritual: He described it as follows:

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- "The red heifer remains the *most compelling and elusive mystery in the Holy Torah*". The ashes of the red heifer constitute the single, universal exclusive antidote to the impurity caused by exposure to death.
- It is said to be an elusive mystery – and it **WAS** – *before* Jesus – but when seen thru the Cross, it is perfectly clear what it is about.

SLIDE: Sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.  
Psalm 51:7 King David

Famous psalm of David – *Create in me a new heart, O Lord, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me..*

*"I shall be clean."* **CLEAN.** To appreciate the purpose of the Red Heifer sacrifice, I want to point out a certain attribute of God's holiness that we read about but *don't realize the implications of what the text* is saying.

- And it is this: Being Unclean, Clean or Holy had *both spiritual and physical implications.*
- *OK – What do I mean about PHYSICAL implications?*

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SLIDE: CLEAN/UNCLEAN & HOLY STATUS CAN BE TRANSMITTED BY CONTACT

Under the Levitical law, the status of Clean & Unclean & Holy can be transmitted to people and objects by physical contact or proximity (nearness)...

For example:

- Exodus 34:29 "Moses didn't realize as he came back down the mountain with the tablets that his face glowed from being in the presence of God. Because of this radiance upon his face, Aaron and the people of Israel were afraid to come near him"
  - Moses face **GLOWED** when he came down from Mt. Sinai with 10 commandments. Glowed? *Sounds strange! (Radioactive similarity?)*
- You who were here several weeks ago will remember how 250 prominent men of Israel who tried to offer incense to God because they thought they believed they deserved to be priests on their own merits -- They were destroyed by God's fire of wrath as they stood in the tabernacle grounds.

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- I didn't read all of the chapter. Listen to Chapter 16:36: "Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Say to Eleazar, the son of Aaron the priest, that he shall take up the censers out of the midst of the blaze, for they are holy; and you scatter the burning coals abroad. As for the censers of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives, let them be made into hammered sheets for a plating of the altar, **since they did present them before the LORD and THEY ARE HOLY**; and they shall be for a sign to the sons of Israel." ---
- The censers are now holy because they were in presence of God, even though the people holding them were destroyed for doing it ???
- How about Luke 2: 22 "When the time came for Mary's purification offering at the Temple, as required by the laws of Moses after the birth of a child, his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord"
  - Mary had to be purified after giving birth to Jesus. --> Purified? ***The MOTHER of the***

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***MESSIAH – the Son of God – was unclean  
because of childbirth?***

We may not understand **WHY** this was the way it was, but this **WAS** the reality and it was God Himself Who established the rules in this manner as physical illustrations of spiritual reality.

- Jesus ran into this situation with the **WOMAN WITH ISSUANCE OF BLOOD** – she ritually contaminated everyone who she touched, even if they didn't know it – brave, she probably would have felt the wrath of the crowd.
- By the way – Jesus was the only one who could touch a person with an unclean status and not be defiled.

**SLIDE: DRAWING UNCLEAR, CLEAN, HOLY**

Under the Levitical system, your status was either unclean, clean (also called common) and holy.

In order to participate in the feasts like Passover or have the ability to offer sacrifices in the Tabernacle, you first had to be **CLEAN**.

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SLIDE: CONTINUATION (MAY BE AUTO)

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- **The point to remember: In the OT, Your Levitical status of unclean, clean, and holy was crucially important because it determined whether or not you may approach God in the tabernacle.**
- 

The whole concept may not be as odd as we may first think. While not exactly the same, how many of us have been in a situation where we have seen or been at an event/movie/party that makes us say – "I feel dirty – need to take a bath." ?  
Something foul has washed over us and we are very uncomfortable.

- OK, the issue in the OT was that " a person or thing could contract ritual "uncleanness" (or "impurity") in a variety of ways: by either having, touching or being near a person with skin disease, discharges of bodily fluids, childbirth (blood), or eating unclean foods.

**However, contact with a dead body** was the primary way of becoming unclean and was way more serious.

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- **The whole principle was about illustrating the that Death has no Place in the Presence of God. It wasn't about the person who died or the body per se**
  - **Mary** did nothing wrong when giving birth to the Messiah,
  - the **people who took Jesus' body down from the cross and buried Him would *also have then been unclean* – they did nothing wrong --**
  - **The whole principle was about illustrating the reality that Death has no Place in the Presence of God.**
- You could eat non-Kosher food and become unclean, but the unclean status would *only last until sundown* and all you had to do was wash your clothes. *With uncleanness from childbirth*, you could wait 40 days and then have a priest make the prescribed offering for you (e.g.; two doves in Mary's case).
- However, if your unclean status was the result of contact with death – that remained ***FOREVER UNTIL*** cleaned by the ashes of the Red Heifer.

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Boy – there's a lot of water powering this windmill today.

OK – Let's look at the Red Heifer which ultimately pointed to Jesus Christ, as Paul points out in Hebrews 9:13, 14:

*"For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*

Let's read Numbers 19.

" The LORD said to Moses and Aaron: <sup>2</sup> "This is a requirement of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the Israelites to bring you a **red heifer without defect or blemish** and that has **never been under a yoke**. <sup>3</sup> Give it to Eleazar the priest; it is to be taken **outside the camp** and slaughtered in his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Eleazar the priest is to take some of its blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the tent of meeting. <sup>5</sup> While he watches, the heifer is to be burned—its hide,

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flesh, blood and intestines. <sup>6</sup> The priest is to take some **cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool** and throw them onto the burning heifer. <sup>7</sup> After that, the priest must wash his clothes and bathe himself with water. He may then come into the camp, but he will be **ceremonially unclean till evening**. <sup>8</sup> The man who burns it must also wash his clothes and bathe with water, and he too will be unclean till evening.

<sup>9</sup> “A man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a ceremonially clean place outside the camp. They are to be kept by the Israelite community for use in the water of cleansing; it is for purification from sin. <sup>10</sup> **The man who gathers up the ashes** of the heifer must also wash his clothes, and **he too will be unclean till evening**. This will be a lasting ordinance both for the Israelites and for the foreigners residing among them.

<sup>11</sup> “Whoever touches a human corpse will be unclean for seven days. <sup>12</sup> They must purify themselves with the water on the third day and on the seventh day; then they will be clean. But if they do not purify themselves on the third and seventh days, they will not be clean. <sup>13</sup> *If they fail to purify themselves after touching a human corpse, they defile the LORD's tabernacle. They must be cut off from Israel. Because the water of cleansing has not been sprinkled on them, they are unclean; their uncleanness remains on them.*

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<sup>14</sup> "This is the law that applies when a person dies in a tent: Anyone who enters the tent and anyone who is in it will be unclean for seven days, <sup>15</sup> and every open container without a lid fastened on it will be unclean.

.....

<sup>17</sup> **"For the unclean person, put some ashes from the burned purification offering into a jar and pour living water over them.** <sup>18</sup> Then a man who is ceremonially clean is to take some hyssop, dip it in the water and sprinkle the tent and all the furnishings and the people who were there.

... <sup>21</sup> **"The man who sprinkles the water of cleansing must also wash his clothes, and anyone who touches the water of cleansing will be unclean till evening.** <sup>22</sup> Anything that an unclean person touches becomes unclean, and anyone who touches it becomes unclean till evening.

OK ...THE ASHES OF THE RED HEIFER, COMBINED WITH 'LIVING WATER',  
PURIFIED AND MADE YOU CLEAN.

"LIVING WATER" = FROM A MOVING STREAM OR SPRING.

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Temple & Messiah Expectations

Quite a ritual – and believe it or not, the concept of red heifer is very alive in some Jewish and Evangelical Christians circles today. Most Orthodox Jews believe that ashes of a red heifer is crucial to rebuilding a Third Temple in Jerusalem.

- under the OT Levitical law, ashes from a red heifer are *absolutely needed* to remove the impurity of the present temple mount.
- some believe that ashes were hidden along with the Ark of the Covenant prior to the destruction of the Temple...?
- The ashes of a red heifer are also of interest to those Christians who believe that the Temple will be rebuilt just before the 2nd coming of Christ ->

Jewish tradition says that there have been NINE red heifers down thru history, the last one just before the both of Jesus. The 10<sup>th</sup> red heifer is said to be at the coming of the Messiah.

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Jesus – destroy THIS Temple (His body) and I will rebuild it in three days – speaking about His resurrection. **His resurrected Body IS the third temple.**

- rebuilding of the Temple, Messiah
  - Mayor of Jerusalem meeting the Messiah – **is this your first visit to Jerusalem or have you been here before?**

OK – *some today might have already tuned out* -- and that's quite understandable given the fact that the *number* and *types of sacrifices* in the OT tends to be a *bit confusing*.

Well, thank God, we don't have to know the details of the OT sacrificial system in order to be saved – certainly I didn't know them when I was saved – **Jesus Alone saves!** That's all we need to know!!!

But since the Holy Spirit saw fit to write this ritual down in the Scripture, *perhaps there's a bit more for us here than first meets the eye*. And there is, and I promise that we'll get to that!

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- OK – WHY was the Red Heifer Sacrifice so crucial?
- Here's why...

SLIDE: LEVITICAL STATUS

There were several levels of status under the Levitical code: Physical status of UNCLEAN, CLEAN -- Spiritual status of COMMON and HOLY.

- Note that you must first be CLEAN in order to participate in the sin offerings.
- We Christians tend to lump the CLEAN status in with HOLY status, that's the **same mistake the 250 men who died**. Clean and Holy are actually two separate categories.
- The 250 men had just COMMON holiness, lacked *sufficient HOLINESS* to act as priests – and it got them killed.

SLIDE: LEVITICAL STATUS #2

- However, if you were UNCLEAN, you could **NOT approach God** in the Tabernacle to offer any sacrifices for sin. You were locked out! Levites were required to kill any unclean

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person attempting to approach God. (Remember, in Acts 21, Paul was almost killed when people falsely accused him of bringing a Gentile into the Temple).

- **So, first, you had to be made CLEAN.**
- There were various types of ways to be made CLEAN – it depended upon the severity of UNCLEANNES. Remember, even Mary had to offer two doves to be PURIFIED after the birth of Christ.
- The most serious type of UNCLEANNES was contact with a dead body.
  - *This required being sprinkled with the ashes of the Red heifer combined with living water*

SLIDE -- RITUALS

OK – just a brief word on OT rituals.

Just like the issue of unclean/clean in OT strikes us strangely, when we read of rituals in the OT, it sometimes cannot be helped but to think about them as a bit of mumbo-jumbo; sorcery, stuff we expect some deep-jungle tribes of the

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Amazon rain forest might perform. Christians in general (Catholics being one of the primary exceptions) have set aside ritual as unimportant and unneeded and unintelligent. We don't see its value anymore; in fact, *we really don't like it* and aren't at all comfortable talking about it because we don't understand why.

Jews were no different. Down thru the ages, rabbis have struggled to explain just WHY rituals were performed, and WHAT actually occurred during these sacred procedures, did the blood and body parts of sacrificed animals take on **supernatural qualities?**

- Did sacred procedures done in exactly the right way and order **create magic-like effects** upon the people of Israel?
- Does bathing in water and saying the right words at the right time **actually react with our flesh and our souls** so as to remove whatever it is that has contaminated us and offended God?

The answer that the rabbis have is that **they're not entirely sure how the whole thing works**, but they know that the

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animal has no magical power in itself, and they know that a corpse can't inherently defile anybody.

In the end, they did this Red Heifer purification procedure – and other such procedures – **because GOD SAID to do it**, and if they did, He will count us as purified and clean. Otherwise, they remained unclean. There is no sorcery is involved. It sure LOOKS like a mumbo–jumbo pagan superstition.....but it's not.

- The Talmud states that *even King Solomon* could not understand this ritual. **"I said, 'I will become wise, but it is far from me' (Ecc. 7:23)."**
- Performing the ritual is considered a **Chukat** (i.e., a statute for which no rational explanation can be adduced, but which must be observed because it is divinely commanded)"

– in other words, *you do it because God said to do it, even if you don't know why.* ---

- Well, **BEFORE** Jesus atoning sacrifice, I can see where this ritual is incomprehensible. After the Cross, it becomes clear. 2 Cor 5:21: says "He made Him who knew

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no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Decent of the Mount of Olives

- OK – let's fast forward to Jesus' time.
- When the Israelites were in Jerusalem, *'outside the camp'* = *outside the walls of the city*.
- Now, remember, the "door" of the Tabernacle and later the Temple always is toward the East. So, since the priest had to look back to see the door for the sprinkling of the blood, the site had to be outside of the tabernacle and to the east.
- That's OK in the desert with the tabernacle, where the terrain is very flat. & you can see a long distance. However, when the Temple was located in Jerusalem, the City was surrounded by walls. This means that the location for the Red Heifer had to be located on a site that was elevated enough to see over the wall and see the temple.

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SLIDE – MT OF OLIVES

- So, where the red heifer sacrifice was performed during the 2nd Temple period (i.e. the time of Jesus)?
  - Well – Here's a graphic of Jerusalem. **The Temple door had to open toward the east.** The site of the Red heifer ritual had to outside the city at **AN ELEVATION** from which the priest look back at the temple and could sprinkle blood toward the door.

CLICK: **Where was that? On the Mount of Olives.** The altar of sacrifice and place of burning for the Red Heifer was at or near the top of the Mount of Olives.

- You may remember that the Garden of Gethsemane was on the lower part of the hill.
- Christ ascended to heaven from the MT of Olives  
Acts 1:9-12
- Christ will return and step down on the Mt. of Olives.  
***Zechariah 14:4***

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SLIDE – KIDRON VALLEY

Just a bit of trivia – because the red heifer and the priests had to walk approximately **1 kilometer (0.6 miles)** outside of the city gates to get up to the site, it opened them up to the possibility of unknowing becoming contaminated by walking on an unmarked grave or walking on ground that had been made unclean from some else who had contact with a dead body. (note: Muslims, East gate, etc).

SLIDE: CAUSEWAY

- So, the Jews built an arched bridge built from the East Gate of the Temple to the Mount of Olives. This bridge kept priests and pilgrims from having to walk the “unclean” valley below where there might be burial places.
- This roadway from the Golden Gate to the Mt. of Olives, which existed in the time of Jesus, had a special name and it is mentioned in the New Testament. It was called “**The Descent of the Mount of Olives**” . The whole distance from the Temple steps to the top of the Mount

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of Olives was considered the most holy road into the Temple.

SLIDE: VIEW FROM MT. OF OLIVES

- Here's what it would have looked like from the Mt. of Olives.
- This causeway is actually referred to in the NT but it isn't very obvious.

CLICK

- In Luke 19 we read about Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey: "37: as soon as He was approaching, **near the descent of the Mount of Olives**, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, <sup>38</sup> shouting: "BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"
- Verse 37 says that he was "**near the descent of the mount of Olives.**" We normally think this is referring to the

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steepness of the hill, but it is a reference to this causeway. Like I-87 is called the Northway.

- Doesn't mean Jesus rode into Jerusalem *on* the causeway. Jesus was coming from the town of Bethany, which is east of Jerusalem. This causeway and the road from Bethany intersect in the vicinity of the Eastern Gate (Golden Gate).

SLIDE

AND IF UNDER THE OLD SYSTEM, THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS AND THE ASHES OF A HEIFER COULD CLEANSE MEN'S BODIES FROM SIN, JUST THINK HOW MUCH MORE SURELY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST WILL TRANSFORM OUR LIVES AND HEARTS."

HEBREWS 9:13-14

SLIDE: THE PARADOX

The Red Heifer sacrifice contains a bunch of paradoxes. Dictionary says that a paradox is a situation or statement that seems contradictory, unbelievable, or absurd – and *yet it is very likely true or factual*.

Example: jumbo shrimp, Yogi Berra: "the restaurant is so crowded that nobody goes there anymore"; **Animal Farm** – "all animals are equal, but some are more equal than others."

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- The main paradox of this Red Heifer sacrifice is this:  
**everybody that has anything to do with its preparation, death, burning up, and gathering of its ashes becomes UNCLEAN.**
  - Upon completing his task the priest had to remove his priestly garment and bathe in water – **because he was ritually unclean!** and remained so until the sun set, indicating the end of the current day and the beginning of the next.
  - Whoever assisted him in this operation also had to remove and wash their garments, takes a bath, and they, too, and remained in a state of impurity until the sun went down.
  - Next, a man who had NOT participated in any of the ritual up to this point (and therefore was still ritually clean) was to GATHER UP THE ASHES and put them in a designated place where they would be used to combine with water and thereby make the special purification liquid for use as it was needed. THIS MAN, in gathering the ashes, BECAME DEFILED. &

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had to wash his clothes and remain in an unclean state until sundown. .

➤ *Did you catch that?*

- **A person who is just following God's command in this ritual law of purification, begins in CLEAN state but winds up becoming ritually IMPURE – until evening.**

➤ **On the surface that makes no sense at all. Can it be that we have Yehovah ORDERING some clean people to INTENTIONALLY become ritually defiled?**

➤ This is why the rabbis have said it is INCOMPREHENSIBLE – just do it because God said to do it.

- Well, **BEFORE** Jesus' atoning sacrifice, I can see where this ritual is incomprehensible. After the Cross, it becomes clear. 2 Cor 5:21: says "**He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

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OK THAT'S THE INFORMATION PART – *GOOD INFORMATION*,

**BUT WHAT IS GOD SAYING TO US ABOUT IT?**

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FIRST THING IS THAT THE BOOK OF HEBREWS SAYS :

And if under the old system, the blood of bulls and goats and the *ashes of a heifer* could cleanse men's bodies from sin, just think how much more surely the blood of Christ will transform our lives and hearts."

HEBREWS 9:13–14

THE CURE BEFORE THE PLAGUE

SLIDE: GOD PROVIDES THE CURE BEFORE THE PLAGUE

The text of Numbers Chapter 19 demonstrates that **God is preemptive** – He takes steps to cancel out the effects of issues before the issues come into our lives.

- I would hate to serve a God Who is just as surprised as I am of when things arise –
- I would hate to serve a God Who when I come to Him and say: 'Lord, I didn't see *that* coming...' and He says: '**Me neither.**'
- Nothing that happens in my life takes Him off guard
- He has set in place the steps that need to take place from afar off.

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When the ritual of the red heifer is described in Chapter 19, God **FIRST** described the ritual of preparing the red heifer and the collection of the ashes, and **THEN** he mentions what the ashes are for – purification from defilement from coming into contact with a corpse.

- **God created the cure before the plague.**
- In the Garden, when Adam and Eve ate of the fruit, you can notice a similar pattern: **God then announced the first Messianic prophesy in the Scriptures – the seed of the woman will crush the head of the serpent)** And **THEN** God pronounced the judgment for their sin (Genesis 3:15) – and even after the judgment, God provided sheep clothes for a covering.
- **Jesus is the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.**
  - **God says : "I don't want you to fail, but if you do, I already have prepared have a remedy"**

That's the implication of the text here – there's going to be some times when the person touches something that defiles

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you. And, according to the Levitical law, if a person touches a corpse, he/she is unclean *permanently* until made clean.

- But God says 'I will not declare you unclean w/o provision to make you clean again.!!!!
- I will not make a law so strict that you will get trapped in the Law I gave you w/o a provision to satisfy the Law.
- I will give you a way of escape, so that if this should happen, – and *know that I don't want you to touch anything that defiles – but if it should happen*, this is how you sanctify yourself – you must have a red heifer.

First criteria – completely uniform color – the animal must not have hairs of any other color. Red Heifers are extremely rare, maybe one each 100 years at most.

- Rarity suggests value. The less often, the less frequently, you have the opportunity to encounter something rare, the more valuable it becomes.
- If you want something to cheapen in value, let it become common – including you.

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2nd criteria – no imperfections, no disease, no infirmity – it had to be holy and spotless. It had to be perfect.

3rd criteria – it could not have a yoke placed upon it, and no man could sit on the red heifer – because if they ever sat on the red heifer, God said 'I won't use it.'

- 'I won't take what you get thru with. I will only take that which you have sanctified unto Me.' 'I won't take your leftovers, your hand-me-downs... this must be Mine or I will not accept it.'
  
- Then God says, 'Give the red heifer to the priest, and the priest is to offer up the red heifer. You must bring Me the red heifer, and bring Me some cedar wood, and some hyssop, and when you bring the cedar and hyssop, bring some wool that has been died a scarlet red. These things will be used in the ceremony.'
  
- And when the red heifer is brought to the priest, the priest must burn it up completely – from head to the end of its tail. **Burn everything** – the blood, the bowels, the

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- dung. It must be burned so completely that the **ONLY THING REMAINING** is **THE ASHES**.
- And it must be burned simultaneously with the cedar wood, the hyssop and the red scarlet wool.
  
  - And when it is burned, you must take the heifer outside of the camp, and burn it outside of the camp, and burn it completely.
  
  - And then realize *that he who burns the heifer is unclean* until evening -- are you hearing what I am saying?
  
  - **THE GOSPEL IS HID FROM THEM THAT ARE LOST.**
    - Those rabbis who rejected Jesus CANNOT know it, they CANNOT have it, and they CANNOT see it. . **People who would have perfect scores on their SATs didn't grasp it, and yet we can.**
  
    - **BUT** – God has allowed **US** to see Who Jesus is – **many of us can't even figure out how to program a VCR.** **THRU THE GRACE OF GOD,** we have the knowledge of Who Jesus is.

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- There are some people who will never see Who Jesus is, but God has chosen you – and allowed you to understand Who He is. The OT saints never got to KNOW Him – only from afar off, in shadows, in types, but they SAW Him in the Red Heifer.

They saw the spotless red heifer, and they saw the coming spotless Sacrifice of Christ in the red heifer.

- The heifer was **brought to the priests for examination**, Christ was brought to the priests for examination. People sought to kill Jesus, but had they killed Jesus w/o the consent of the High Priest, they would have ruined the sacrifice. Every time they tried to harm Him, Jesus slipped thru their midst. **Jesus had to be examined by the priests before the sacrifice was proper.**
- Even **Pilate**, who doesn't realize what he is saying, says 'I find no fault in this man' and he says 'Bring me some water and let me wash my hands, for I have found no fault in this man.' **Pilate doesn't know it but he is clearing him for sacrifice.** But while Pilate could clear Him, he

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couldn't offer Him because Pilate was a Roman, and if Pilate had offered Him up, he would have cancelled out the sacrifice. So Pilate say to the Jews, 'You decide what to do with Him. Shall I free Him or Barabbas?'

- And it was when the crowd, **with the consent of the High Priest**, Christ's cross went from execution to sacrifice.
- The Romans crucified many, there even were two others being crucified w/Jesus. **They were executed, He was sacrificed..**

CEDAR WOOD, HYSSOP AD SCARLET WOOL THROWN INTO THE FIRE

cedar wood – cedar was the **preferred tree of crucifixion** by the Romans

hyssop – When Jesus on the cross says He is thirsty, John 19:29 says, "A jar full of sour wine was there, so they put a sponge soaked in sour wine on a **BRANCH OF HYSSOP** and lifted it to His mouth."

scarlet wool – Matthew 27:28 says "And having stripped Him, they put a **scarlet robe** on Him"

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**OUTSIDE OF THE CAMP** – in the Book of Hebrews, it says that Jesus died for our sins *outside the camp*. *Had He died inside of the camp, Israel would have owned Him..*

- Myself as a Gentile couldn't get to Him – it wasn't allowed. I would have been quickly killed by the Levite temple guards for approaching holy ground and not being Jewish.
  - But for my sake, *Christ said 'I can't die in here and leave Joe Rich, or Bob Wasson, or Lyle, or Patty, or Dave, or Tabitha .. outside there,'* so He died outside of the camp, so that we wouldn't have any walls to climb over.
  - You can come boldly to the cross and say 'Lord, I want to be saved". Nobody can stop you from getting to Jesus.

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And, just as the priest who performs the sacrifice becomes unclean, and the person who uses the ashes and living water to purify and make clean another person contaminated with death also becomes unclean...

- 2 Cor 5:21: says "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

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- **Jesus' one sacrifice on the cross served two purposes:**
  - it fulfilled the sacrifice of the Red Heifer that makes us CLEAN and
  - it fulfilled the sacrifice of the Lamb for sin that make us HOLY.

{He died out of the camp, out of the religious structure, for all of us who *have lived 'outside of the box'* ... if you look around here... you know you're in here ...}

SLIDE: NEW WINESKINS

Christ is changing us – He should increase and we should decrease – and how open to this are we?

**Now, using the ashes of the red heifer, mixed with Living Water, people could be made CLEAN from contact with death.**

- *A similar principle applies to the past events of our lives.*
- The cleansing power of the Red Heifer is *when it is ashes.*
- It changes form – it doesn't cease to exist – *it changes from the heifer to the ashes,* and this change enables our change.

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- The ashes of what once was, *when mixed with living water of the Holy Spirit*, produces change.
- "Living Water" – means moving water from a spring or river. Doesn't stand still, always is moving, always changing and yet always remains the same. During the time of Jesus, the "living water" that was mixed with the Ashes of the Red Heifer was gathered from the **Pool of Siloam** in Jerusalem.
- Last Sunday, Bill spoke about Jesus going to a Feast in Jerusalem. Bill read: "Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."<sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'"
  - The Feast was the Feast of Tabernacles
  - There were two liquids used in the sacrificial offerings at the Feast: **one was wine**, the **other was from a golden filled with water – "living water".**
  - **And where was the water drawn that is used in the ceremony?** Where did the water **HAVE TO** come from – from **the Pool of Siloam.**

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- Wine and Living Water – new wineskins and Living Water cleansing us!!!
  - Can you see the canvass. Presentations that we've heard over the past months were totally uncoordinated at the human level - but they were coordinated at the eternal level!

SLIDE: Ashes mixed with Living Water makes Clean

- Two weeks ago, **Bob Wasson** said : "All we have a history, and sometimes its hard to get away from who we were, who we are." Interesting. Remember, last week during the service, Bill was praying for us to be rid of sin-consciousness, the thoughts we have about ourselves because of our past.
  - The past is **WHAT ONCE WAS** but **IS NO LONGER** – except in our memory.
  - It's like the red heifer that was **ONCE ALIVE** – a strong healthy animal – but it was burnt in a gigantic bonfire and now **ALL THAT REMAINS ARE THE ASHES.**

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- so too, those things in the Past, like the red heifer, are dead, my past is dead, your past is dead.
- All that remains are **the memories, the ashes** – **HOW YOU DEAL WITH THE ASHES EFFECTS YOU.**

SLIDE: BETTER SACRIFICE

*"For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"*

SLIDE: NEW WINESKINS

Recall what Jesus said to the woman at the well:

"IF YOU KNEW THE GIFT OF GOD, AND WHO IT IS WHO SAYS TO YOU, 'GIVE ME A DRINK,' YOU WOULD HAVE **ASKED HIM**, AND HE WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU **LIVING WATER.**"     JOHN 4:10

ASK CHRIST NOW...

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Purify my heart  
Let me be as gold and precious silver  
... My heart's one desire  
Is to be holy  
Set apart for You, Lord  
I choose to be holy  
Set apart for You, my Master  
Ready to do Your will