

THE ASHES OF THE RED HEIFER  
AND THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST  
NUMBERS 19:1-6; HEBREWS 13:10-12

INTRO: Easter is not only the story of a resurrection, but also of a necessary death and a burial. Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again the third day according to the scriptures. According to what scriptures? According to the Old Testament prophecies concerning the sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

The place of sacrifice that we want to consider is Moriah. Moriah is where Isaac was laid upon the altar. But was this on the Mountain of Moriah are in the mountains of Moriah? Genesis 22:6 says the sacrifice took place in the mountains of the land of Moriah. We often say that the Ark landed on Mount Ararat, yet the Bible says in Genesis 8:4 that the Ark rested “upon the mountains of Ararat.” Moriah is not just one mountain but two.

The Bible tells us in 2 Chronicles 3:1 that “Solomon began to build the house of the Lord (Temple) at Jerusalem in mount Moriah, where the Lord appeared unto David his father, in the place that David had prepared in the threshingfloor of Ornan the Jebusite.” It is not said that he built the Temple on the site of the sacrifice of Isaac. If this important event had taken place in the spot where the Temple was built I believe it would have been mentioned.

The Bible in (2 Samuel 15:30-32), does speak of David going to the “top” of the Mount of Olives, “top” is the Hebrew *roshe* meaning “head”, this could be seen as the place of the skull. At the top of the Mount of Olives David worshiped God.

From the Mount of Olives you can see over the Eastern Wall and Eastern Gate which is deliberately lower than the other walls. “All the [walls] were high, save only the eastern wall, because the priest who burns the Heifer and stands on top of the Mount of Olives should be able to look directly into the entrance of the sanctuary when the blood [of the Red Heifer] is sprinkled.” (Middoth 2:4) (from the Mishnah)

The Red Heifer was sacrificed outside the gate (Eastern) on the Mount of Olives and I believe that Christ was crucified on the Mount of Olives, which faced the entrance to the Temple. Keep in mind that the Centurion who was at the crucifixion saw the veil tear in the Temple, the only way he could have done this would be for the crucifixion to have been on the Mount of Olives (Matthew 27:50-54).

Now that we have looked at the location of the crucifixion and the

significance of the sacrifice of the Red Heifer to this location, we want to learn what all of this means to us spiritually.

#### I. Numbers 19:2, THE PURITY OF THE SACRIFICE

- A. The Red Heifer had to be without any blemish and without defect within are deformity without.
  - 1. Of all men that have ever lived there is only one who lived a perfect life. A life without defect within are deformity without. 1 Peter 1:19 tells us that we are not redeemed with corruptible things “But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot.”
  - 2. All other men have there faults and failures, Jesus Christ has never failed and will never fail.
- B. Our Lord Jesus was spoken of as the holy Son of God before His birth (Luke 1:35).
- C. All men have sinned except the God man, Jesus Christ. We must look to the blood of Christ for redemption and everlasting life. 1 John 1:7b says, “The blood of Jesus Christ his [God’s] Son cleanseth us from all sin.” Remember the sacrifice of the Red Heifer was for cleansing.

#### II. THE SURRENDER OF THE SACRIFICE

- A. The Red Heifer did not need to be restrained or controlled for she stayed obedient to her master.
- B. Our Lord Jesus completely surrendered Himself to the will of the Father.
  - 1. Christ left heavens glory to come to this sin cursed so that we could be saved. Psalm 40:7-8 says, “*Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea thy law is within me*” Philippians 4:8 says that Christ, “*Humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*”
  - 2. Hebrews 10:6-10 speaks of Christ fulfilling the will of the Father through the offering of His body for sin.
- C. Because of Christ’s full surrender to the will of God He was never burdened with the yoke of sin. Because He had no sin He can forgive ours.

#### III. NUMBERS 19:3, THE SACRIFICE WAS OUTSIDE THE CAMP

- A. The sacrifice had to be performed outside the camp.
    - 1. The Pulpit Commentary says, "The bodies of those animals offered for sin of the congregation were always burnt outside the camp, the law testifying that sin and death had no proper place within the city of God. In this case however, the whole sacrifice was performed outside the camp." (vol.2, 240) The Pulpit Commentary goes on to say of the sacrifice of the Red Heifer, "It [the Red Heifer] served to prefigure in a wonderful way and indeed startling way the sacrifice of Christ outside the gate. In the later days the heifer was conducted over the ravine Kedron to the opposite slope of Olivet. *'That he [the priest] may bring her forth...and one slay her.'*" (Vol. 2, 241)
    - 2. Hebrews 13:10-13 speaks of Christ our substitute crucified outside of the Eastern Gate on the Mount of Olives.
  - B. The heifer was delivered over to the Chief priest who led her out to die, but she was slain by the hands of another. Caiaphas delivered Jesus over to Pilate and the Romans to be slain (John 18:28-32).
- IV. NUMBERS 19:4, THE SPRINKLING OF BLOOD
- A. The blood was sprinkled toward the Tabernacle and later, when the Temple was built, toward the Temple.
  - B. Christ entered the Holy Place in heaven and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat for us (Hebrews 9:11-15).
- V. NUMBERS 19:5-6, THE BURNING OF THE RED HEIFER AND THE MIXING OF THE ASHES WITH CEDAR, HYSSOP AND SCARLET
- A. The fire that burned the sacrifice of the Red Heifer pictures the wrath of God against sin. The idea is of God's wrath being burned out against sin.
  - B. On the cross the fire of God's wrath burned hot against our sin (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus bore our hell on the cross crying, "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me."

VI. NUMBERS 19:7-10, THE WATER FOR CLEANSING

- A. The water that is mentioned over and over in these verses reminds us of the precious Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39) and of the washing of the water of the Word of God (Eph. 5:26).
- B. The sentence of death hung over those who did not have cleansing. Christ through His death took away the sentence of dath from all who believe (Hebrews 9:12-14).

VII. NUMBERS 19:13, DEATH IS CONCURED BY THE SACRIFICE

- A. To be cleansed from the stain of death the water of cleansing had to be applied.
  - 1. Without the application of the sacrificial remedy you are not clean.
  - 2. You cannot worship God if you are not right with Him. You must worship Him in Spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24, "The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.")
- B. Christ, who was crucified outside the gate is our remedy for deaths penalty (1 Cor. 15:55-57).

CONCLUSION: "What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. Oh, precious is the flow, that makes me white as snow. No other fount I know. Nothing but the blood of Jesus.