



CHUKAT - DECREE

Numbers 19:1 to 22:1
Judges 11:1-33
John 3:1-21; 4:3-30; 12:27-50

The Red Heifer Sacrifice

The red heifer sacrifice has always been a great illustration in Scripture of Yeshua. To fully comprehend the importance of this study we go back to Exodus 24:3-11 where God/Elohim gives His Covenant (the Mosaic Covenant) to His people Israel. Scripture says they all responded with one voice, “*Everything the LORD/Yahweh has said we will listen to do.*” Then Moses wrote down all the words of the Covenant. The season in which this took place was the culmination of the Counting of the Omer and the Feast of Pentecost/*Shavuot*. The occasion was God’s/Elohim betrothal (known in Hebrew as a *ketubah*) to His people Israel where He gifted His proposed Marriage Covenant to His Bride. The Marriage Covenant is also known as *the Good News* or *the Gospel* and contains God’s/Elohim universal order for His Kingdom here on earth (*For further information on Gospel, see study Lech Lecha in Genesis www.sheepfoldgleanings.com*).

The *purpose* of a betrothal is for the couple to vow publically their intent to one other. The *goal* of engagement is the *wedding day*. In Greek, this *goal* or *ending* is a *finishing* called *telos*. It is here the couple *begins* their Marriage Covenant and life together as husband and wife. Therefore, *betrothal is an ending and marriage is the beginning*. So it is with Yeshua.

🌿 **Romans 10:4** “For Christ/Yeshua is the end/*telos* [*goal*] of the law [*Torah*] for righteousness [*holiness and sanctification*] to everyone who believes.”

Yeshua is the *goal, ending, finishing* or *telos* of the Torah, the Law of Righteousness (*betrothal*), that brings His people to marriage/*the beginning*. Now that His people have received *the goal* (Yeshua, *the Gospel*), they enter into His Kingdom lifestyle. Yeshua has graciously supplied all the information for His people on how to walk in His right ways as documented in His Word/*The Torah*. The pursuit of Torah is filled with His wisdom, understanding, and knowledge, to produce a pure and holy life to everyone who trusts and believes in Him.

🌿 **Galatians 3:24** “Therefore the Law/*Torah* has become our tutor to lead us to Christ/Messiah [*our Bridegroom*], that we may be justified by faith.”

🌿 **Matthew 5:17** “Do not think that I [Yeshua] came to abolish the Law [*Torah, the law of*

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righteousness, Moses] or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.”

When the people cried in unison “*Na’aseh v’nishma!*” they were saying “*Everything the LORD/Yahweh has said [in His Gospel – Betrothal Covenant], we will listen to do.*” That expression teaches us the principle of freeing ourselves from shackles that may hinder our walk with Yeshua. The key to a successful holy life is to *accept His word whole-heartedly and perform it willingly*. There may be challenges in our life along the way, but realize that the fuller depth of God’s/*Elohim* truth may yet be seen or grasped in our lives. The point is to allow His Holy Spirit/*Ruach HaKodesh* to guide us and for us to follow what He asks us to do; as obedience brings the blessings.

🌿 **Exodus 24:4-8** “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 the LORD/*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 the LORD/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 the LORD/Yahweh has made with you according to all these words.***”

Hebrews Chapter 9 reveals more detail about this event.

🌿 **Hebrews 9:19** “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** [*contained in the water from the red heifer sacrifice*], **and sprinkled the scroll and all the people.**”

🌿 **Luke 22:20** “Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘**This cup** is the new [*re-newed/kianos*] [*Marriage*] Covenant in My blood [*prophetic of the red heifer sacrifice*], which is shed for you.’”

The *cup* in Luke 22:20 is a reference to the red heifer ceremony and the background to our study this week.

The Red Heifer

The Mount of Olives
Numbers 19:1-9

The killing of the red heifer and keeping its ashes are commandments not for salvation, but purification. God’s/*Elohim* requirements are for the children of Israel to present the high priest, a red heifer that was no older than three years, without defect or blemish, which had never been under a yoke or birthed a calf. After receiving the heifer at the Tabernacle, Eleazar led it outside

the camp for slaughter. Some of its blood was returned and sprinkled seven times in front of the Tabernacle. This ordinance was for the children of Israel and those sojourning with them *throughout their generations* (Numbers 19:2, 9, 10, 21).

Under Eleazar's supervision, they burned the heifer entirely; hide, flesh, blood, and offal, along with *cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet wool*. Later the high priest cleansed himself (had a *mikvah*) and changed his garments to priestly attire before returning to camp, where he remained unclean until evening. The man who burned the red heifer also took a *mikvah* and changed his clothes (status) 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. He also changed his clothes and performed a *mikvah* before returning to the camp.

The ashes were kept for the entire Israelite community, to be used in the water cleansing ceremony for purification from sin (sometimes called *holy water* Numbers 5:11-31). That lasting ordinance was for both the Israelites and those sojourning among them. To date, there have been nine red heifer sacrifices in Israel's history.

The heifer represents a type and shadow of the Messiah. Popular belief holds that the Messiah fulfilled the requirements for the tenth red heifer. He is the Word made flesh, born of a virgin, conceived by the Spirit of God/*Elohim* and without sin, meaning He was never under the yoke of sin and death. Also, Yeshua's earthly ministry was three years (John 1:1,14; Luke 1:26-27; Isaiah 7:14).

Different places are labeled as the *traditional* site of the crucifixion of Yeshua. One is the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, which would have placed the crucifixion site *inside the camp*. Some say that Gordon's Golgotha (meaning, head or poll), by the present day Garden Tomb as the place of crucifixion. This relatively new site in history is located just outside the Damascus Gate (also noted as Shechem Gate) in the Old City of Jerusalem. The Hebrew understanding of the word skull 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 name 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 has historically and biblically been understood as a *separate mountain* entirely than where the Temple stood on Mount Moriah. The most authentic place was on the Mount of Olives. This mountain, opposite Jerusalem, historically has been accepted as the set-apart place for the red heifer sacrifice. Also known as the Skull Mountain in Yeshua's day, the Mount of Olives is part of the *Mount Moriah mountain range*, which includes Mount Moriah. The Mount of Olives has long been recognized by the Israelites down through the generations as the place where Yeshua died.

Access to the set-apart site was through the eastern gate also called the Golden Gate. The valley between Mount of Olives and Mount Moriah (where Jerusalem is situated) is known as the Kidron Valley or Kidron Brook. The blood and water from the temple sacrifices flowed down

the Kidron Valley from Mount Moriah, between the two mountains, and why it was noted as the Valley of Death. A bridge built over the Kidron Valley joined the two mountains so the priests could perform their duties without coming in contact with the unclean flow from the Temple sacrifices. The bridge was also known as the Priestly Bridge, the Red Heifer's Gangway, and the Narrow Way.

In Genesis Chapter 15, when Abraham received the Covenant, he was instructed to sacrifice animals, a three-year-old heifer along with a ram, a goat, a turtledove and a young pigeon. The Hebrew word for heifer in Genesis 15:9 is Strong's H5697 עֵגְלָה *'eglâ* meaning: a heifer or young cow. The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament (TWOT) says Strong's H6510 פָּרָה *pārâ* is a synonym for the word *'eglâ* and the word for (red) heifer in Numbers 19:2. It also mentions that unlike the word for bull/*pār*, the cow/heifer/*pārâ* was never used in the Tanakh as an animal of sacrifice. The only exception was the red heifer, which was slaughtered and burned outside the camp. Thus, Abraham presented a red heifer in Genesis 15:9. He would have offered it in a clean place outside the camp *on the Mount of Olives*. There, Abraham cut the animals in half and let the blood flow down toward the Kidron Valley. God/*Elohim* then walked between the pieces thereby sealing the Covenant *forever* (Genesis 15:17). It was on this same mountain, years later that Abraham knew where he was to go when asked to offer his only son, Isaac, as he had been to *that place* before.

 **Genesis 22:2** Then He said, "Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

Additionally, Yeshua's death renewed the Covenant made with Abraham. After Yeshua had been presented before God/*Elohim*, on Mount Moriah, He was taken *outside the camp* to a clean place on the Mount of Olives. There His body was crucified, and His blood flowed down for His Bride, Israel. As with the first cutting of the Covenant with Abraham, Yeshua's cutting was the re-enacting and renewing of Abraham's Covenant.

Why was the renewing of the Abrahamic Covenant required? The Covenant given to Abraham, established a people, a blessing, and a possession of land as a wedding gift to God's/*Elohim* people Israel. When the Israelites reached Mount Sinai, God/*Elohim* formally betrothed His people and handed them the keys to His Kingdom with the instructions of how to walk in their Marriage Covenant (the Mosaic Covenant/the Song of Moses). The instructions were then written on stone tablets and contained in a book. However, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying this beautiful gift (Covenant) for His people, he found Israel adulterating before a false god - the golden calf. Their conduct broke Covenant with Him. Because blood formally and legally bound both the Abrahamic Covenant and Mosaic Covenant, blood was required for restoration. Without blood, there would be no redemption in the Covenant. Thus, Yeshua became our red heifer sacrifice to renew the Covenant.

As Yeshua's sinless blood flowed down the Mount of Olives, another stream of blood flowed down Mount Moriah from the Temple sacrifices for the Passover. Not only was blood flowing from Yeshua's heart that day but also water came forth when a sword pierced His heart. The

water from His heart symbolized the water cleansing from the red heifer sacrifice. When His water (truth) mingled with His blood, the doors/veil opened for the cleansing and renewal of the hearts of His people. In this one act of faithfulness, by substituting His life for ours, Yeshua fulfilled the red heifer sacrifice. His offering restored the sacrifices Abraham initially presided over in Genesis 15:9.

🔥 **John 8:56** “Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day [*Yeshua’s day*], and he saw it and was glad.”

Yeshua renewed the Abrahamic Covenant *forever. It is finished.* Now it is up to the Bride to continue to follow the instructions given her at Mount Sinai through the Mosaic Covenant. The instructions will fulfill her destiny in Yeshua (also known as the restoration of David’s Tabernacle, the Covenant that contains the priestly anointing) (Genesis 15: 1-21; Amos 9:11; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Hebrew 8:8-10; Matthew 10:8; 15:24; Romans 11:25-26; Ezekiel 37:15-28; 1Peter 2:9).

🔥 **Isaiah 44:3** “For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;”

🔥 **Ezekiel 36:24-28** “For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. Then you shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; you shall be My people, and I will be your God’s/*Elohim*.”

🔥 **John 3:5** Yeshua answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of *water* and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God’s/*Elohim*.”

🔥 **John 4:14** “But the *water* that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

🔥 **John 7:38** “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of *living water*.”

Yeshua is the only mediator we have between heaven and earth. It is His sinless atoning blood offering in the red heifer requirement that broke the barriers in His people and between people groups in the Nations to bring healing and to unify them in one accord under His Kingship (Hebrews 9:15; Ephesians 2:11-22).

Four days before the Passover, Yeshua rode a donkey over the Kidron Valley by way of the priestly bridge and entered Jerusalem to be our Passover Lamb. We were told the people lined the way with palm branches waving them as a wave offering while crying out, “*Hosanna! (Hebrew for Save us!) Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the LORD/Yahweh! Blessed is the King of Israel*” fulfilling the prophecies from Psalm 118:25-26 and Zechariah 9:9 (John 12:12-15).

This event was also portrayed prophetic by John in the Book of Revelation, “*After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God/Elohim who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’*” (Revelation 7:9-10).

It was the priestly bridge that the people proclaimed Messiah Yeshua King of Israel and this same bridge that Yeshua crossed over a few days later on His final journey to fulfill the red heifer sacrifice at His death on our behalf.

🌿 **Matthew 7:13-14** “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.”

🌿 **Zechariah 4:4** “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.”

At the exact moment of Yeshua’s death, when His blood was shed, there was an earthquake. The inner Temple veil that divided the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place tore in half from *top* to bottom. The veil represents Yeshua’s body. When His body was “rent” from top to bottom, sin was defeated; therefore, the veil that kept His people from entering the Most Holy Place was also removed. Now the veil is only needed when sin is present. Once people repent of sin, the veil is removed. Yeshua on the cross forgave us our sins. Thus, the removal of the veil revealed His final work – *liberty for the captives!* (Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 4:18; 23:45; Hebrews 10:20) (*For further veil information, please refer to study Aharei Mot in Leviticus*).

🌿 **2 Corinthians 3:14-18** “But their [*the children of Israel*] minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the *veil* is taken away in Christ/Messiah. But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart. Nevertheless when one [*the children of Israel*] turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away [*in repentance through Messiah*]. Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

The Red Heifer *Cedar, Hyssop, and Scarlet*

📖 **Numbers 19:5-6** “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.”

In the red heifer sacrifice, Yeshua would have to fulfill the cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet wool requirements.

Cedar

Cedar can represent strength. It can also represent pride. Our pride makes us think we are long lasting, indestructible, and above the Law/Torah.

The Talmud says that the inhabitants of Israel called ten different trees *cedar*. It was, however, the cedar of Lebanon that was most widely referred to when the word *erez* 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.

The oil in cedar is excellent at preventing the wood from dry rot and destructive insects. Cedar as an essential oil is 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 also help remove toxins, fluid retention, salt, fat from the body, and sedate inflammations. It can also be useful for calming nervous anxiety, arthritis, cystitis, and improves skin conditions such as acne, dandruff, and psoriasis.

Scriptural references for cedar used in connection for *inside* the Temple are 1 Kings 6:15 and 18. In 1 Kings 7:12 cedar 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

Hyssop represents humility. The word occurs ten times in Scripture, primarily in the five Books of Moses. Hyssop is a small plant that can grow in the small crags between the walls. It is used in purification ceremonies. In Exodus 12:22, we read that hyssop functioned as a brush for the Israelites to apply the 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 the purification ceremony for the cleansing of leprosy and also an outbreak of mildew. King David said, “*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean*” (Psalms 51:7). In John 19:29, they lifted sour wine up to Yeshua on a hyssop branch when He was on the Cross.

Hyssop means ‘holy herb’ and has known properties that have the ability to reprogram DNA to restore right order thereby helping cleanse thoughts or habits. Hyssop is also used for its

antiseptic, disinfecting, and anti-infectious properties. It has been beneficial for opening the respiratory system and as a decongestant relieving respiratory infections, coughs, sore throats, bronchial spasms, viral infections, and asthma. Hyssop is helpful in cleansing, purifying, and reducing fats in tissue. It also helps raise low blood pressure and is useful for relieving anxiety, arthritis, bruises, cuts, skin inflammation, indigestion, fatigue, nervous tension, parasites (expelling worms), rheumatism, and healing wounds.

Together, the cedar and hyssop represent the most stately tree and the lowly bush. “*Also he [King Solomon] spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall; he spoke also of animals, of birds, of creeping things, and of fish*” (1 Kings 4:33).

Scarlet Thread

Scarlet thread in Scripture represents Yeshua’s blood. The dye is obtained from the eggs of the female worm or insect that attaches herself to the kermes oak tree. The word *towla* (Strong’s H8438) is Hebrew for *scarlet*. When the worm is to give birth, she attaches her body to the trunk of a tree, fixing so firmly and permanently that she would never leave again. The deposited beneath her body were protected until the larvae hatched and able to enter their own life cycle. As the mother died, a crimson fluid stained the wood surrounding her body, acting as a covering. From the death of the female scarlet worm came the commercial scarlet dyes of antiquity. Some 70,000 cochineal insects are required to manufacture a single pound of the dye.



scarlet
ready
herself
eggs

Not only was the scarlet thread used in the priestly garments, but also for the purification ceremonies such as the cleansing of the leper, the leprous house and general cleaning. 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 (Leviticus 14:4, 6; Leviticus 14:49, 52; Number 19:6).

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

The Red Heifer

The Samaritan Woman

Numbers 19:17-21; John 4:5-24

For an unclean (*tzarat*) person who had come in contact with a dead body, ashes from *the red heifer* (the burnt offering of purification) were put into an earthen vessel and then fresh living water was poured over the ashes. The water was now called the *water of purification*. A priest who was ceremonially clean would take some hyssop, dip it into the water of purification from the red heifer sacrifice and sprinkle the person, tent, or furnishings requiring cleansing. The

person was unclean for seven days. If during that time the person had not ritually cleansed on the *third* and *seventh* day, they would bring defilement to the sanctuary, therefore, cut off from the community. That is the reason why these cleansing steps are necessary as they are a lasting ordinance for all the people of Israel.

✠ **1 Peter 1:1-2** “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, to God’s/*Elohim* elect, exiles scattered throughout the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God/*Elohim* the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach* and sprinkled with his blood: grace and peace be yours in abundance.”

Samaria is a region in the Northern Kingdom of Israel inhabited mostly by people of the House of Israel. During the occupation, Assyrians settled and intermarried with the Israeli population in that region. As a result, most people from Judah and the Southern Kingdom avoided that area as they considered the Samaritans an unclean people. However, Scripture is very clear that the people who walked in darkness would one day be redeemed and set free (2 Kings 17:5-6, 24).

✠ **Isaiah 9:2** “The people who walked in darkness [*illiterate to their Covenant*] have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light [*the Living Torah - Yeshua*] has shined [*renewing the Marriage Covenant*]” (Matthew 4:16).

John Chapter 4 chronicles the story of Yeshua traveling north. When He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, He rested by *Jacob’s Well*. This well was located in the region Jacob gave to his son Joseph. About the same time, a woman arrived to draw water from the well. Yeshua asked her for a drink. He surprised her, as it was rare for a man from the House of *Judah* to travel into her territory and stop specifically at the well of her father, Jacob. It was even rarer for Judah to engage in conversation with a woman and also with a person in her region. When He asked to drink from her cup, He had her attention.

The Samaritans lived under the darkness of brother Judah’s scorn, a bondage that had carried over for generations after the invasion. As a result of Judah’s judgment against Israel, no light shone on these people. Seeing Yeshua’s boldness to walk into their region, the woman tested Him to see if His approach was sincere or not.

✠ **John 4:9** “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman? For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.”

Yeshua’s arrival at the sixth hour foreshadows His crucifixion when darkness would be over the land beginning at the sixth hour and last until His death at the ninth hour. His arrival also reveals He is the Messiah who brings redemption *to the lost sheep of the House of Israel*, those shunned and living in darkness (Matthew 4:16; Matthew 15:24; Mark 15:33).

✠ **Isaiah 9:1-2** “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.”

When Yeshua asked the woman for a drink, it was with the understanding that He would drink *her cup* from the Law of Jealousy (Numbers 5:5-31). The cup would also contain the water of cleansing from the ashes of the red heifer sacrifice (Numbers 5:17). The Samaritan woman represented those who were unfaithful to their Marriage Covenant and those from the House of Israel in the Northern Kingdom who had not kept His ways and become a scattered, separated people.

Yeshua amazed the Samaritan woman by noting she had five husbands (representing the five books of Moses: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy), and further added, “...and the one whom you now have is not your husband.” He revealed she was indeed *outside* her Marriage Covenant, as she had become *without wisdom (Moses)*.

📖 **Isaiah 29:10-12** “For the LORD/Yahweh has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, *namely*, the seers. The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which *men* deliver to one who is literate, saying, ‘Read this, please.’ And he says, ‘I cannot, for it *is* sealed.’ Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, ‘Read this, please.’ And he says, ‘I am not literate.’

The Samaritan woman responded by reminding 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 say, “*a defiled people.*”

Yeshua continued, “*If you knew the gift [of restoration] of God/Elohim and who it is that asks you for a drink [the cup that renews your Marriage Covenant], you would have asked Him and He would have given you Living Water [from the red heifer sacrifice]*” (John 4:10).

After years of persecution, and with the little dignity she had left, made it known the well belonged to her father, Jacob. “*He drank from it as did his sons and his flocks and herds*” (a reference to the Covenant of Abraham for ALL Twelve Tribes of Israel).

Yeshua continued. He elevated her heart by saying, “*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 4:13-14).

In this last statement, Yeshua shared two additional references about the ashes of the red heifer sacrifice that were also part of the water cleansing for the Law of Jealousy. John 7:38 is

prophetic of the redemptive work of the Messiah opening the door for the returnees by drinking their cup of redemption.

🌿 **John 7:37-38** “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

The Samaritan woman would come to know Yeshua as her Messiah. Because of His love for her, she will pass the test for the Law of Jealousy and at the wedding supper of the Lamb, be found a virtuous Bride. Formerly *lost*, she was now *found* and able to fully walk in the redemption offered according to God’s/*Elohim* holy Marriage Covenant (John 8:1-11; Revelation 19:13; 22:1-3).

Joseph is another example of redemption without judgment when Mary, Joseph’s betrothed, was found pregnant before their wedding day. As he walked in the heart of Torah, in spirit and truth, He chose not to expose her but stay within God’s/*Elohim* righteousness as a covering for them both (Matthew 1:18-25).

Spirit And Truth

🌿 **John 4:21-24** Yeshua said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God/*Elohim* is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in *spirit and truth*.” (Jeremiah 31:31-36; Zechariah 4:6).

With joy, the Samaritan woman recognized Yeshua as her Savior and Messiah. Her heart opened when she saw the forgiveness offered her and the House of Israel – the people living in darkness and ran to tell the whole village the *Good News*. *The one Moses told us about has come!* Yeshua stayed among her people two additional days while He presented the redeemed lifestyle of sanctification found in the *Living Torah*. Many came to believe and put their faith in Him, as their Messiah.

To believers in Yeshua and all of Israel, the cup from the Law of Jealousy is *our* cup that Yeshua drank on our behalf. It was not *His* cup, as He is sinless. 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.*” Yeshua went on to become the red heifer sacrifice and drink *our* cup from the Law of Jealousy. He fulfilled all requirements for *our* cleansing and restored right relationship with His Bride (Matthew 26:39).

🌿 **John 19:29-30** “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 Jesus/*Yeshua* had received the sour wine, He said, ‘*It is finished!*’ And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”

Not by Might, Nor by Power But by MY Spirit

🌿 **John 4:21-24** “the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God/*Elohim* is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in *spirit and truth*.”

It is Yeshua who cleanses His people by His *spirit and truth*. Spirit and truth also reference His blood and water, which flowed when His side was pierced. God/*Elohim* is Spirit, therefore; His worshipers (believers) must worship Him in Spirit and Truth (Jeremiah 3:6-11).

What does it mean to worship Yeshua in *spirit and truth*? Many think this phrase is a cliché. However, if we keep the history of this story in balance with what Yeshua is saying to the Samaritan woman, we find that to worship Him in spirit and truth is about not judging His people. God/*Elohim* taught us this lesson in Genesis 4:6 where He warned Cain about his anger. Unfortunately, Cain did not listen. In *judgment*, he murdered his brother. Moses is another example that we will see later in this lesson. God/*Elohim* instructed him to “speak” to the rock, but instead, he struck the rock. God/*Elohim* is showing us through these examples that we are *not to judge* His people. If we do, we render ourselves outside the camp.

To worship Yeshua in spirit and truth is to walk an elevated walk – *where we do not judge His people!* Note: Yeshua never judged the woman at the well. He only spoke Truth to her in the Spirit of Life. Torah is for transforming the heart. It is not a set of laws for judgment, guilt, and condemnation. Those who handled the “word of life” as death are not worshipping Him in spirit and truth, as there is no condemnation in His Kingdom.

🌿 **Romans 8:1-2** “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus/*Yeshua HaMashiach*, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus [*Torah/The Gospel*] has made me free from the law of sin and death.”

His Truth/Word is to bring life not death. Through the Samaritan woman, Yeshua has given us a living example of redemption for His people who lived in darkness *for generations*. Here her own people had shunned that community for fear of becoming contamination. All those years they could have extended the hand of the Kinsman Redeemer for forgiveness and restoration. *That is what it means to worship Me in Spirit and Truth.*

🌿 **Colossians 2:13-15** When you [*believers*] were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God/*Elohim* made you alive with Christ/*Messiah*. He forgave us all our sins. Having canceled 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.

- ✚ **John 19:33-34** “When they came to Jesus/*Yeshua* and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water [*spirit and truth*].”
- ✚ **Zechariah 12:10** “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 13:1** “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* – Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16).

Redemption

In Leviticus Chapter 14 (study *Metzora*), we read of the guilt offering requirement for one desiring cleansing from uncleanness (*tzaras*). The *blood* from that guilt offering was placed on the tip of the right ear, right thumb, and right big toe. Then the *oil* (spirit) of anointing was put in the same location as the blood (truth) on the right ear, right thumb, and right big toe. The remainder of oil was poured over the head to cleanse the guilty conscience. In doing this, the person was declared clean from *tzaras* by *spirit and truth*. They were then led into a Torah lifestyle and taught how to keep God’s/*Elohim* precepts so as not to sin again. The guilt offering is about redeeming that which was lost and learning to walk the sanctified life so that *spirit and truth* would establish the repentant returning believer, not *judgment*.

- ✚ **Zechariah 4:6** “Not by might, nor by power but by MY Spirit says the LORD/*Yahweh* of hosts.”

Yeshua fulfilled all the requirements for the red heifer sacrifice of purification. As an unclean people, that requirement in Torah was one we could never fulfill on our own, thus, His covering and fulfillment on our behalf. *Yeshua* cleansed our impurities once and for all. He was taken outside the camp to a clean place and sacrificed. By willingly taking our sin, it caused His death.

The *hyssop* requirement for the red heifer sacrifice was evident in the drink brought to *Yeshua* on a hyssop branch (John 19:29-30). 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, that curtain tore in two. It was only possible if *Yeshua*’s blood was pure, holy, and accepted on the heavenly altar. Scripturally, once a year the altar of incense in the Temple’s holy place was to be atoned. At the time of *Yeshua*’s crucifixion, His blood not only cleansed the people but also brought atonement to this altar *eternally* once and for all. The *scarlet thread* requirement was also

fulfilled upon His death, when the sword pierced His side, a scarlet thread of blood and water poured from His heart (John 19:29-34; 1 Kings 6:20; Exodus 30:10).

Remember the definition of *scarlet* earlier; worm was another word for *scarlet* Strong's H8438. 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 His people from their sin. It is also a sign of His Marriage Covenant restored so that believers can enter. Our sin was removed that He might *bring many sons unto glory*. He died for us that we might live through Him.

🌿 **Isaiah 1:18** “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 52:14-15** “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.”

The cost in fulfilling the requirements for the *cup of bitterness* (the Law of Jealousy) and the water of cleansing (with ashes from the red heifer sacrifice) was Yeshua's death. Israel was both the unfaithful Bride and the unclean/dead (*tzaras*) body. His people were considered dead in their trespasses/iniquities and those of their forefathers. They were also found guilty if after being filled with His Spirit they continued to sin. Therefore, Yeshua drank our cup and offered His people an olive branch for purification and cleansing once and for all. Those who believe in Him as Messiah must choose to enter INTO *His death and resurrection*. And if they die IN Him, they will also rise in His resurrection *life*, as His Firstfruits from the dead (Isaiah 63:11).

🌿 **Colossians 3:3** “For you died and your life is now hidden with Christ/*Messiah* in God/*Elohim*.”

Let His Blood Be On Us And Our Children!

Many thought the words spoken just before Yeshua's crucifixion a curse, but what if they were prophetic in that He would sprinkle many people/nations with His blood?

🌿 **Matthew 27:25** “Before Pilate, all the people answered, ‘*Let His blood be on us and on our children!*’”

The *religious leaders* at the time wanted Yeshua's death, but *the people* who walked with Him the three and a half years and experienced His remarkable teaching and miraculous healings wanted His life with them forever. In this case, the Scripture in Matthew speaks of *future generations*. His people *wanted* Yeshua's blood to be upon them! Thus, among the mixed crowd before Pilate that day was not only a cry for His death but also a cry for life and reconciliation - for all future generations!

The law states that whoever touches death needs cleansing (Numbers 19 the red heifer sacrifice). We were all *dead* in the iniquities of our forefathers before us. Also, if we continued to transgress after became born again, we need cleansing. Many believers are learning through Yeshua's teaching and instruction/Torah, to separate from that which brings death such as bitterness, rage, anger, and unforgiveness, etc. For believers who are finished with the old carnal nature once and for all, it requires a true repentance and a turning from the old ways to restore the Covenant. God's/*Elohim* people all received Yeshua's blood upon them. Now they realize His atoning work is to *appropriate the sprinkling* of His blood that absolves and sanctifies His people of all sins *past, present, and future* (Exodus 24:3-11).

✿ **Ezekiel 36:25-28** “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/*Elohim*.”

✿ **Ezekiel 37:1-14** The hand of the LORD/*Yahweh* came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD/*Yahweh*, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it *was* full of bones. Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, *there were* very many in the open valley; and indeed *they were* very dry. And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ So I answered, ‘O Lord GOD/*Elohim*, You know.’ Again He said to me, ‘Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘*O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD/Yahweh!* Thus says the Lord GOD/*Elohim* to these bones: Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I *am* the LORD/*Yahweh*.’”

“So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but *there was* no breath in them. Also He said to me, ‘Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, ‘*Thus says the Lord GOD/Elohim: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.*’” So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

“Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘*Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!*’ Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘*Thus says the Lord GOD/Elohim: ‘Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD/Yahweh, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I,*

the LORD/Yahweh, have spoken it and performed it,' says the LORD/Yahweh.'”

🌿 **Isaiah 12:2-3** “Behold, God/*Elohim* is my salvation [*the Hebrew word for salvation is Yeshua*], I will trust and not be afraid; ‘For YAH, the LORD / *Yahweh*, is my strength and song; He also has become my salvation [*Yeshua*].” Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation [*Yeshua*].”

In the world, the Jewish people have been falsely accused of Yeshua’s murder. Many people, including the Church, have carried out horrible atrocities against the Jewish people all because of this Scripture in Matthew 27:25. Would the persecution, crusades, inquisition, pogroms, holocausts, terrorism, and thousands of murders and threats against innocent Jewish people taken place if this Scripture were understood in its fuller context?

🌿 **Revelation 13:8** Yeshua is “*the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*”

🌿 **Isaiah 53:5** “He [*Yeshua*] 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 speaks the prophecy of Yeshua’s death and of His blood “*sprinkled upon us,*” to cleanse and heal us from our sins and the sins of our forefathers.”

🌿 **Isaiah 52:15** “So shall He [*Yeshua*] *sprinkle* many nations.”

🌿 **1 Peter 2:24** “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.”

When Moses received the Marriage Covenant at Mount Sinai, the whole Israelite community with Him represented not only their day but also all their future generations – those not yet born but carried within their DNA. All generations stood with our ancestors when Moses sprinkled the *blood of the Covenant* upon the people.

🌿 **Deuteronomy 29:14-15** “I make this covenant and this oath, not with you alone, but with *him* who stands here with us today before the LORD/*Yahweh* our God/*Elohim*, as well as with *him* who *is* not here with us today.”

We were with the twelve (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*” (1 Corinthians 11:24, Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19).

We were there when Yeshua “*took the cup, gave thanks and offered it 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’*” Every time Yeshua’s people break bread and drink the cup they are to remember their *Marriage Covenant*. When we do, the Bride is saying, “*We will do everything*

God/Elohim has said; we will obey our Marriage Covenant with You” (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:24; 1 Corinthians 11:25).

Note: In Numbers 15, the wine offering and bread offering are always offered together with the burnt/elevation offering. They are also served with special vows, freewill offerings, and at ALL God's/Elohim Feast days, including His Shabbat and New Moon/Rosh Chodesh celebrations. Not just once a year at Passover (Numbers 15:3; 28:9-40. The *minchah* offering – Leviticus 2; Numbers 15:4; John 6:35; Numbers 15:5; Matthew 26:26-27).

As His people, we were there when Yeshua died, and we all cried, “His blood be upon us and our children.” We are that generation of children who received Yeshua’s atoning blood (Exodus 24:3-11).

✠ **1 John 5:6-8** “⁶This is He who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. ⁷For there are three that bear witness *in heaven*: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ⁸And there are three that bear witness *on earth*: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one (NKJ and KJV).”

Yeshua fulfilled the red heifer sacrifice. As believers and part of Israel, we were the unclean/tzarat people Yeshua restored. He nailed our impurities to the stake. He atoned the altar of incense and drank our cup. He has cleansed His people as a sweet aroma before Him. Yeshua is the Living sacrifice. When His people enter His death (to the carnal nature as overcomers participating in His resurrection life), they enter *eternity* - called *today* – and become holy living sacrifices before Him. (Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-31; Romans 12:1).

✠ **1 Peter 1:1-2** “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach, To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God/Elohim the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

✠ **1 Peter 2:5** “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God/Elohim through Jesus Christ/Yeshua HaMashiach.”

✠ **1 Peter 2:8-10** “They [*believers who once walked in a sanctified life/Davidic/Marriage Covenant*] stumble, being disobedient to the word [*they did not walk in sanctification and broke their Mosaic/Marriage Covenant given at Mount Sinai, through Moses*] to which they [*those are Mount Sinai*] also were appointed. But you [*those who obey Moses and the Prophets*] are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His

marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God/Elohim, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy [*because of now understanding how to return and walk in accordance with your Marriage Covenant/Yeshua's teaching and instruction (Torah) given at Mount Sinai, and how to crucify the sinful nature so that death no longer has rule in you*] (Hosea 2:23).

✚ **Colossians 3:8-10** “now you yourselves [*believers*] are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language [*the sinful nature*] 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 2:13-15** “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.”

✚ **Hebrews 3:7-13** “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/Elohim; but exhort one another daily, while it is called “Today,” lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

✚ **Hebrews 10:19-23** “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/Elohim, 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.”

Solomon's Wisdom

✚ **1 Kings 4:33** “He [,] could discuss trees, from the cedar in the Lebanon/L'vanon to the hyssop growing out of the wall; he could discuss wild animals, poultry, reptiles and fish (1 Kings 5:13 CJB).

When King Solomon expounded on the *cedar* and the *hyssop* plant together, he spoke of his knowledge of the Messiah and how through the use of cedar and hyssop our Savior would fulfill the red heifer sacrifice at His death, and thus the requirement for purification and redemption of

all mankind. “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).

🌿 **Hebrews 9:11-14** “But Christ/Messiah came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats *and the ashes of a heifer*, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, *how much more shall the blood of Christ/Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God/Elohim, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God/Elohim?*”

🌿 **Micah 6:8** “He has showed you. O man, what is good. And what does the LORD/Yahweh require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God/Elohim.”

Moses and Aaron Strike The Rock

In Numbers Chapters 20-21, the Israelites arrived at the Desert of Zin near Kadesh. It was here Miriam, Moses’ sister, died. Soon after, the Israelite community showed discontentment against Moses and Aaron for lack of water. However, it was not a complaint. Moses and Aaron were growing tired of the grumbling and complaining. When God/Elohim advised them to *speak* to the Rock, they judged the sheep instead, and then *struck* the rock in their anger. The difference in the bleating of the sheep this time was that they were tired and thirsty, thus, cried for help. Moses and Aaron were to represent God’s/Elohim word appropriately at all times *in spirit and truth*. They were not to *judge* the sheep. When they vented judgment, their bark back was inappropriate. God/Elohim never shows judgment when the sheep cry out in need. At this point of their journey to use God’s/Elohim rod (His word) and strike at the rock of their provision showed their hearts had grown cold. Their resentment proved very costly. Like the Israelites before them, who were judged unfit to enter the Land, Moses and Aaron were also prevented from entering. God/Elohim intends the sheep be led in the spirit and truth of His word. Not hit with harsh words.

Aaron’s Death

The study ends with the Edomites denying the Israelites permission to pass through their borders (Esau’s lineage and territory). As the Israelites came to Mount Hor, God/Elohim informed them it was time for Aaron to pass his duties and authority to his eldest son Eleazar. Together with Moses, they ascend the top of Mount Hor, where Moses removed Aaron’s high priest garments and placed them on Eleazar and then anointed him as high priest. When the ordination was complete, Aaron died before the whole community, and they mourn him thirty days.

The Bronze Snake and The Pole

The Israelites continued their journey and went by way of the Red Sea to avoid Edom. On route, a Canaanite king took offense and went to war capturing several Israelites. As Israel prayed, God/*Elohim* gave them the victory. However, once again they became discouraged and cursed Moses and God/*Elohim*. In their malcontent, they called the bread worthless. This time, God/*Elohim* sent venomous snakes among them.

Lack of bread and water was a direct result of their *judging* attitudes (*lashon hara*) toward the Holy One guiding them. That mindset dried up the Living Water and made the manna tasteless in their mouths. In other words, their hearts rendered Yeshua and Torah unpalatable. In response, God/*Elohim* sent poisonous snakes among them that they might cry out in repentance and be saved. As Moses prayed, God/*Elohim* instructed him to make a serpent to lift high on a pole for all see. Those who *saw* it lived.

This pole represented the final redemption that Yeshua would take on our behalf. The pole represented Yeshua's crucifixion stake or tree. For those who laid aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking and walked in spirit and truth, they would find mercy and live. However, those who did not would bring the curse upon themselves. The symbol Moses made was to be reminiscent for them of the blessings that come from obedience and the curses that come from disobedience. When the people looked at the snake on the pole, it reminded them to turn from sin and walk in spirit and truth. Yeshua is a stumbling stone for some and a precious cornerstone for others (1 Peter 2:1; Isaiah 8:14; Romans 9:32-33; 1 Peter 2:8; John 3:14).

🔱 **1 Peter 2:6-10** “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame. Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone, and a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense. They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God/*Elohim*, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.”

🔱 **1 Corinthians 15:54-58** “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ ‘O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?’ The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God/*Elohim*, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ/*Yeshua HaMashiach*. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord (Isaiah 25:8; Hosea 13:14).

The Israelites continued to travel 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 God/Elohim*), Nahaliel (*valley of*

God/Elohim), and Bamoth (*high places*) to the valley in Moab. The people of Moab and Ammon refused to allow passage through their land. Instead, they entered into war and lost their land to the Israelites (Numbers 21:21-22:1).

To be continued...

Shabbat Shalom
Julie Parker

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