

PARASHAT CHUKAT

פרשת חוקת

Numbers 19:1-22:1

Note to the adult teacher: It will be necessary for you to give the scriptural context and background for each of the points listed below.

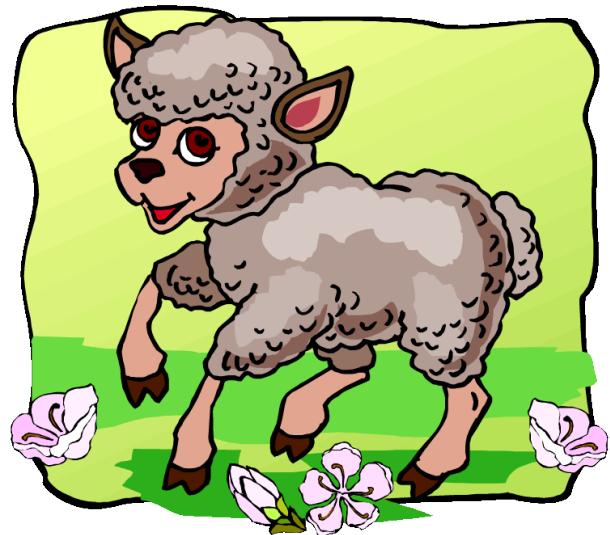
Great Discoveries in This Week's Parashah (Torah Portion)

- 19:1 The Red Cow
- 20:1 Miriam's Death
- 20:3 The People Complain for Lack of Water and Against the Manna
- 20:7 YHVH Commands Moses to Bring Water from the Rock
- 20:9 Moses Sins by Striking the Rock and Is Punished by Not Being Permitted to Lead the Israelites into the Promised Land
- 21:1 Amalek Attacks the Israelites
- 21:4 The Israelites Murmur Again; Complaining About the Manna and Lack of Water
- 21:6 Fiery Serpents Attack the Complainers
- 21:8 Moses Constructs a Serpent on a Pole and the People Are Healed of the Snake Bites

Exploring This Week's Parashah:

1 Yeshua's Coming Prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures: The Story of the Lamb

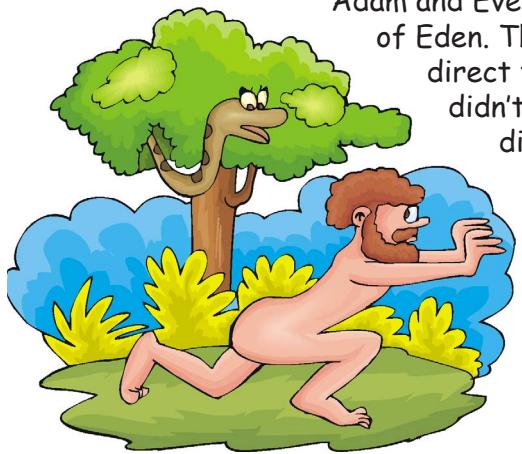
The Bible from Genesis to Revelation is the story of man walking with YHVH Elohim in perfect faith, trust, oneness and friendship; then of man sinning by rebelling against his Heavenly Creator; and then of YHVH reaching out to man to redeem man and to restore him to a place where the two could once again walk in loving friendship. The relationship between man and YHVH started in the Garden of Eden and will end up in the New Jerusalem or heaven on earth.



At the center of this all is YHVH's plan to redeem or save man from the penalty of his sin (rebellion against YHVH), which is death. Who would be qualified to die in man's place? Who could live a sin-free life himself, and then still pay for the sins of all humans who have ever lived?

The answer to this question is like a thread that weaves its way throughout the entire Bible. Throughout the Scriptures, there are numerous trail markers or sign posts that continually point to the one and only Person who could be a bridge between sinful men and a sinless, righteous and perfect Elohim. This Person is the only One who could lead men back into a loving relationship with their Heavenly Father. It is the story of the Lamb of Elohim, and it goes like this:

Adam and Eve walked with Elohim in the cool of the day in the Garden of Eden. They had direct communication with him, and they received direct teaching from his mouth on how to live righteously. They didn't have to question him, they only had to believe him. They didn't question Elohim's existence or his Word. They had no doubts or disbelief. They believed him like a child believes its parents. They were free to do anything in the Garden of Eden except one thing: they were not to eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil in the middle of the garden.



One day Adam and Eve met the serpent (Satan) who cast doubts into their minds about Elohim. He told them that what Elohim had told them was not true, and that they did not have to follow his Word. He called Elohim a liar and said that they could eat of the forbidden fruit. Man had a choice at this point: to believe in the Word of Elohim and not eat of the fruit, or to believe the lies of the serpent about Elohim. Adam and Eve chose to doubt Elohim, to not believe his Word and to follow the lies of the serpent (the devil). This was man's first sin.



Sin was the disease that now infected man. What was the cure for the disease? The answer is given to us in Genesis 3:15 where YHVH Elohim prophesies about a Coming One who would

be born of a woman and who

would destroy the devil who had tempted man to sin. This is the first trail marker in the Bible that points to Yeshua the Messiah.

When Adam and Eve sinned they were naked. Their sinning caused them to become aware of their nakedness and they became ashamed. YHVH made them clothes of animal skins to wear (Genesis 3:21). Though the Bible doesn't say, these skins were probably made from a slain kosher animal such as a lamb. This is likely another clue pointing to Yeshua, the Lamb of Elohim.

Adam and Eve had two sons: Cain and Abel. The first parents clearly would have instructed their children on the right way to



worship Elohim—on how to approach him. To come to YHVH, sinful man needed an offering to present to YHVH. Giving this offering was like saying, "I'm sorry that I have sinned, here is something to pay for my sins, please now accept me." An innocent lamb was that offering that was acceptable to YHVH to cover man's sins. Abel brought YHVH a lamb for an offering, while Cain brought vegetables. YHVH accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's. This is the first time in the Bible a lamb for a sin offering is mentioned.

All throughout the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), YHVH's servants communicated with and worshipped YHVH through offering a lamb as a sacrifice. Noah did, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did. When Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, YHVH provided a ram to be sacrificed in place of Isaac. This happened on the very spot where the temple was built in Jerusalem many years later.



Even the children of Israel in Egypt on the first Passover, killed a lamb and put its blood on the door posts of their homes so that the Elohim in his judgment against sin would pass over them.

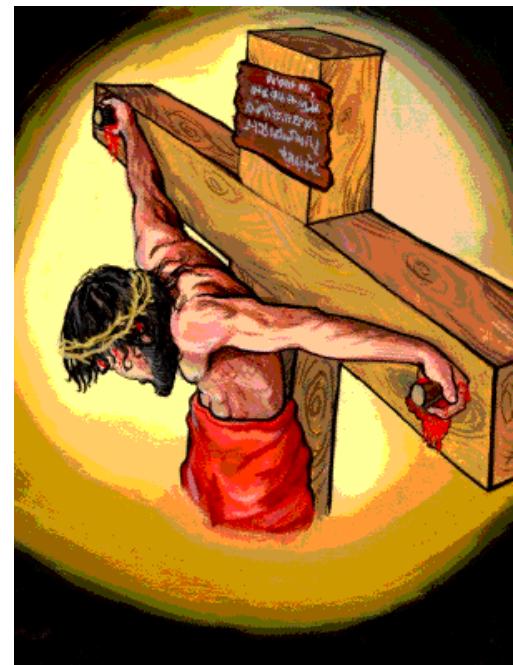
All through the Hebrew Scriptures the lamb was a prophetic picture of a future event that was to take place. YHVH was telling his people that someone was coming who would defeat Satan and who would also be like a lamb.

Isaiah the prophet speaks of this in Isaiah 53. We read of this coming Savior, "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with [who knew] grief ... Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows ... But he was wounded for our transgressions [rebellion], he was bruised for our iniquities [perversity or wickedness] ... he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so

he opens not his mouth ... he bore the sin of man, and made intercession for [intervened or plead on behalf of] the transgressors [rebels or sinners]."

This is a clear picture of Yeshua, the promised Messiah, Savior and Redeemer. This prophecy was given seven hundred years before the birth of Yeshua. It is Yeshua, the Lamb of Elohim, slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8) who is the way back to the Father. He said that he is the only way to the Father and that he was the spiritual door to eternal life, the way, the truth and the life, and all those who would put their trust and faith in him would have their names written in the Lamb's Book of Life (John 14:6; 10:9; Revelation 21:27).

Even in the last chapter of the Bible where we see a picture of heaven on earth, this same Lamb of Elohim is mentioned. In this picture of the New Jerusalem in the New Heaven and the New Earth, we read that "there is a pure river of the water of life, clear as crystal proceeding out of the throne of Elohim, and of the Lamb.... And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of Elohim and of the Lamb shall be in it, and they shall see his face" (Revelation 22:1-4).



This is the story of the Lamb of Elohim. This story starts in Genesis, the first book of the Bible, and continues all the way through Revelation, the last book in the Bible.

2 Prophetic Shadow Pictures of Yeshua in Parashat Chukat: The Red Heifer

In Numbers 19:1-22, we learn about the red heifer (a young female cow). There are a number of clues in this section that clearly point to Yeshua's dying on the cross for our sins. Let's explore these clues to see how this is so.



- (a) The first question is a tough one: What color was the red heifer? What is the significance of the color red in the Bible? (Read Isaiah 1:18.)
- (b) What condition was the red heifer to be in? (See Numbers 19:2 and note the latter part of the verse.) How does this point to Yeshua? (Look at Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1Peter 2:22.)
- (c) The purpose of the red heifer's sacrifice was to purify an unclean person; that is, someone who had touched a dead body. What does this teach us? What does the Bible tell us that we deserve because we have sinned? (Read Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 6:23.)

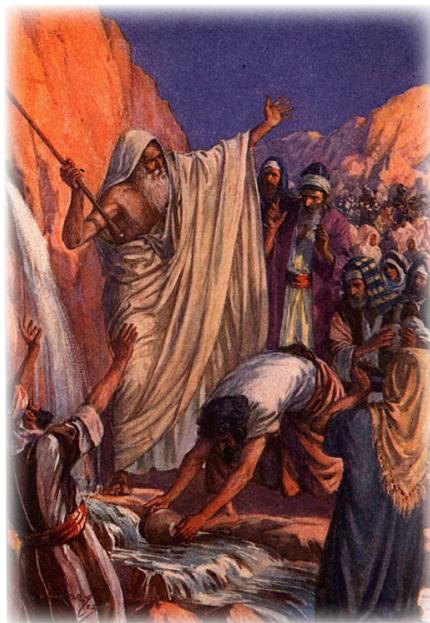
Because of our sins, we all deserve the death penalty; therefore, without accepting Yeshua's dying for our sins, we are walking dead men who cannot enter into YHVH's kingdom. The Tabernacle of Moses was a picture of YHVH's kingdom, and whoever had touched a dead body would be guilty of defiling the tabernacle (Numbers 19:13).

They could have nothing to do with the tabernacle. What this really means to say is that someone who is spiritually dead in their sins cannot be saved and cannot enter into YHVH's forever spiritual kingdom.

- (d) The red heifer was sacrificed on a special altar outside of the tabernacle. How does this point to Yeshua? Where was Yeshua crucified: in the temple or outside of the temple? (See Hebrews 9:11-15, especially note verse 13 and compare this with Hebrews 13:10-13.)

3 Water from the Rock: Another Picture of Yeshua

In Numbers 20:7-13, we read how Moses hit the rock with his staff and how water came out of it for the people to drink. This is another prophetic picture of Yeshua. Let's see how.



- (e) The Apostolic Scriptures (New Testament) liken Yeshua to a rock—a big, solid, immovable rock like the one upon which the wise man built his spiritual house. (Read Matthew 7:24-27.)
- (f) Yeshua is not only like a rock foundation on which we should build the spiritual house of our faith, but he is also the cornerstone of the very building itself. A stone or brick building is built around a cornerstone. Yeshua is called the Chief

Cornerstone of the saint's spiritual house. (Read Ephesians 2:20 and 1 Peter 2:6.)

-  (g) We also see that from Yeshua, the Rock of our salvation, comes spiritual water so that we can drink and we will not thirst spiritually. (Note 1 Corinthians 10:4.) Even as man must eat bread and drink water to survive physically, so man needs Yeshua, the bread of life and the water of salvation to survive spiritually. (Look at John 6:35.) Yeshua said that he was the source of spiritual water. (John 4:10-14.)

4 The Bronze Serpent on the Pole: Another Picture of Yeshua

In Numbers 21:4-9, the Israelites sinned against YHVH. As a result, YHVH sent snakes among the people that bit them, killing many Israelites.

-  (h) What did YHVH instruct Moses to do for healing those who had sinned and were sick because of snake venom? (Read verse 8.)
-  (i) What did the people have to do to get healed? (Read verses 8 and 9.)

What does this have to do with Yeshua? Well, Satan (the serpent) tempted Adam and Eve to sin in the Garden of Eden, and he has been tempting men to sin ever since.

-  (j) Have you ever been tempted to sin? What did you do? Did you give in to the sin, or resist the temptation to sin?

As we learned above, when we sin the ultimate result will be eternal death. Sin brings death to humans! Paul likens death and sin to being stung by a bee or being bitten by a scorpion or snake and feeling the sting of the snake's poison in us. But thanks to Elohim, Yeshua delivered us from the penalty of sin, which is death, by dying on the cross for us, and therefore we have victory over death through Yeshua! (Read 1 Corinthians 15:56-57.) Yeshua took all of our sins upon himself and became sin (or become like a serpent) when he went to the cross. (See Isaiah 53:4-6.)

-  (k) Now, what did Yeshua say about himself being like the snake on the pole? (Go to John 3:14.)
-  (l) When the children of Israel looked upon the serpent on the pole, they were healed of the sting of the snake venom that should have killed them. Now what happens when one puts their faith in Yeshua who died for our sins on the cross? (Read John 3:15-18.)
-  (m) Have you put your faith in Yeshua to deliver you from the sting of death, which is sin?

