



**Message 6-23-18**  
**Chukkat-Ordinance of**  
**Numbers 19:1-22:1**  
**Judges 11:1-33**  
**Hebrews 9:11-14**

**Introduction**

Chukkat opens with the ritual of the red heifer. How do we explain this ritual? One rabbi, when asked this question by his students, told them, “The truth is that the purifying power of the red cow is a decree of the Holy One. The Holy One said, “I have set it down as a statute, I have issued it as a decree. You are not permitted to transgress My decree.” As His people, we are to establish a relationship with Him through Torah and all that it contains, whether we agree or not or whether we understand it or not.

**Numbers 19:9**

9 `Then a man *who is clean* shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and store *them* outside the camp in a **clean** place; and they shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for the water of purification; it *is* for purifying from sin. (NKJ)

<02889> טָהוֹר *tahor* (373a)

**Meaning:** *clean, pure*

**Origin:** from 2891

**Usage:** clean (51), pure (40), purity (1), unclean\* (2), who is clean (1).

Many sages have mused over what the ceremony of the red heifer means in terms of purification. We have immersion for many different things, but the red heifer ceremony is something more. We are told this is for the Children of Israel for purifying from sin, but specifically purification from coming into contact with a dead body.

*From Wikipedia: The non-canonical [Epistle of Barnabas](#) (8:1) explicitly equates the Red Heifer with [Yeshua](#). In the [Apostolic Scriptures](#), the phrases "without the gate" ([Hebrews 13:12](#)) and "without the camp" ([Numbers 19:3](#), [Hebrews 13:13](#)) have been taken to be not only an identification of Jesus with the Red Heifer, but an indication as to the location of the [crucifixion](#). This is the thesis of [Ernest L. Martin](#) in his 1984 book *Secrets of Golgotha*.*

## **Christians**

Some Fundamentalist Christians believe that the Second Coming of Yeshua the Messiah cannot occur until the Third Temple is constructed in Jerusalem, which requires the appearance of a red heifer born in Israel. Clyde Lott, a cattle breeder, is attempting to systematically breed red heifers and export them to Israel to establish a breeding line of red heifers in Israel in the hope that this will bring about the construction of the Third Temple and ultimately the Second Coming of Yeshua.

It would be interesting if the speculation that the red heifer is a reference to Yeshua, and the red heifer needs to be without spot of blemish just as Yeshua needed to be to be an acceptable sacrifice for all of mankind. The connection would be an answer to something that the sages of old have failed to explain in a way that satisfies us. The further speculation that Yeshua cannot return, in what is called the second coming, until the third Temple is built in Jerusalem, and a red heifer is born in Israel. Since the third Temple is to be desecrated by the anti-messiah, many things must happen.

**Revelation 11:13** And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven. (ESV)

**Zechariah 14:3** Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations as when he fights on a day of battle. <sup>4</sup> On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. <sup>5</sup> And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. **And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake** in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him. <sup>6</sup> On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. <sup>7</sup> And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light. <sup>8</sup> On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter. <sup>9</sup> And the LORD will be king over all the earth. On that day the LORD will be one and his name one. (ESV)

Jerusalem will come under siege, and the nations will come against it because it is the city of the Almighty of Israel. Jerusalem has been a city of many religions, but there is no religion of the one true God. He is about faith in Messiah Yeshua and walking in Torah. They go hand in hand, and the day is coming when we will live by faith and walk according to the teachings of Torah as modeled for us by Messiah Yeshua. He died because of our sin and the sin of all of mankind. He had to die so He could sprinkle His blood upon mankind as the water of purification was sprinkled on those who were unclean because they had come into contact with a dead body. All of us need the water of purification because we have come into contact with the dead body of Yeshua in order that we may be cleansed from our sin. His blood is the water of life poured out upon us once we come to Him and accept Him as our Messiah because He gave Himself in death to take away

our sins and in His resurrection. He overcame that sin and was raised from the dead by the power of His Father to sit as King over the nations of the earth during the thousand years of the Messianic Kingdom.

### **Judges 11:23-28**

**23** So then the LORD, the God of Israel, dispossessed the Amorites from before his people Israel; and are you to take possession of them? <sup>24</sup> Will you not possess what Chemosh your god gives you to possess? And all that the LORD our God has dispossessed before us, we will possess. <sup>25</sup> Now are you any better than Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab? Did he ever contend against Israel, or did he ever go to war with them? <sup>26</sup> While Israel lived in Heshbon and its villages, and in Aroer and its villages, and in all the cities that are on the banks of the Arnon, 300 years, why did you not deliver them within that time? <sup>27</sup> I therefore have not sinned against you, and you do me wrong by making war on me. The LORD, the Judge, decide this day between the people of Israel and the people of Ammon." <sup>28</sup> But the king of the Ammonites did not listen to the words of Jephthah that he sent to him. (ESV)

Jephthah was the son of a prostitute and was treated with contempt with his stepbrothers who drove him out of his father's house. Then one day, the people who drove him out came to him and asked him to lead them against their enemies because Jephthah was a valiant warrior despite the circumstances of his birth. The irony is this was the fact that when Miriam, the mother of Yeshua, was pregnant with Him, it was before she and Joseph had been married, so when Joseph became aware of the fact that she was with child, he wanted to send her away, in order that she would not be stoned to death for committing a sin against Torah. An angel of the Lord told him not to send her away because she was carrying the Son of God who would become the source of redemption for all mankind. He would be the Messiah of Israel, the one that was prophesied for so long by so many. He was the one our ancestors looked for because those who waked with God knew of the promise.

**Genesis 18:25** Far be it from you to do such a thing, to put the righteous to death with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" (ESV)

Our Heavenly Father, through His Son Yeshua, would bring the gift of redemption to all those who have ever lived upon the face of the earth. The promise of redemption was built into the story of man's fall in the beginning when Adam and Chavah disobeyed the command from God not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They allowed Satan, who was within the serpent, to feed them a lie which they took to heart causing them to defy their Creator. This was the first stage of failure of humanity if it were not for the fact that the Creator knew what we would do and still do today, disobey the Almighty's covenant of Torah. The only covenant the Almighty ever made with us was the Torah. The Torah was before Mount Sinai. The Torah was before Abraham. The Torah was before Noah. Enoch walked in Torah as did all the others but was someone who was special to God, so God took him to be with him. Torah was in the Garden with Adam and

Chavah until they broke it, were cursed by their Creator, and cast out of the garden, always wanting to try to return, but they could not.

This is the story of the Red Heifer. We die to our Creator when we sin against Him, so He gave the command about the Red Heifer to Moses to give to Israel that there is a way to overcome death through the water of purification from the ashes of Messiah who brings life eternal.

#### **Hebrews 9:11-14**

**11** But when Messiah appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) <sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. <sup>13</sup> **For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, <sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.** (ESV)

Here in the book of Hebrews, we see that while the ashes of the red heifer were for purification of the flesh, the blood of the Messiah Yeshua through the Ruach HaKodesh was offered by Him to His Father to purify us from our dead works. Works done under Torah, but without faith, is the redemptive power of Yeshua's sacrifice. Are the works done under Torah dead, or do they not mean anything, and we have striven to follow Torah in vain? NO! I say no repeatedly! To follow is not to act in vain or blind obedience. It is what the Father asks of us, but we are to do it out of faith found through the redemption offered to us by Messiah Yeshua's sacrifice and stamped eternally in the annals of the Torah as given by the Father through His Son. Faith in Yeshua brings us to the foot of the throne of Father and Son. Torah is the means by which He asks us to live our lives so we understand the gift we are being offered.

**Isaiah 53:12** Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many and makes intercession for the transgressors. (ESV)

**1 John 1:7** But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Yeshua his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (ESV)

That is the secret to the red heifer. The Red Heifer is Messiah Yeshua who cleanses us from the death we enter by our sinful lives. We are the dead bodies who need the water offered by our Red Heifer Yeshua.

***Torah Man says: "It's nice to be important, but more important to be nice."***

Blessings in Messiah Yeshua,

Mordecai Silver

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The business card features a background with diagonal stripes in light purple, grey, and orange. On the left, there is a logo for 'etz chayim' with a tree icon above the text. Below the logo, it says 'Tree of Life Messianic Ministries'. On the right side, contact information for Rabbi Mordecai Silver, Ph.D. is listed, including a telephone number, fax number, website, and email address. At the bottom, the physical address is provided.

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