



Lesson 21 – The Offering of the Red Heifer

Read Deuteronomy 21:1-9

The life of every sacrifice, from the first one offered at the gate of Eden down to the Cross, was a type of Christ; but the offering of the red heifer is different in many respects from all others. It was an occasional sacrifice, offered when needed, to purify from ceremonial uncleanness those who for any reason had touched the dead.

1) How was Jesus described?

2 Corinthians 5:21 For he hath made him to be _____ for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the _____ of God in him.

The heifer was to be red, without one spot, thus in a special manner typifying the blood of Christ. It was to be without blemish, thus representing Him “**who knew no sin.**” It was to be one that had never been broken to bear the yoke; it must be a heifer that had always been free, never forced to do anything.

2) What did Jesus say about laying down His life for others?

John 10:18 No man _____ it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

The Red Heifer Offering was symbolic of the Son of God, who came of His own free will and died for us. Christ was above all law; no yoke was upon Him. While enduring the agony of Gethsemane, He could have wiped the bloody sweat from His brow and returned to His rightful place in heaven, and left the world to perish. There was no power, only that of supreme heavenly love, that forced Christ toward the cross of Calvary.

3) What was God's motivation to save man?

John 3:16 For God so _____ the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

He came a voluntary offering, from choice. He offered Himself for the sins of the world, and the Father's love for the fallen race was so great that, much as He loved His only Son, He accepted the offered life. Angels follow the law of God; therefore, their life could not have atoned for the transgression of the law. Christ alone was free from the claims of the law, the only one who could redeem the lost race.



4) Where was the Offering of the Red Heifer made?

Deuteronomy 21:3-4 And it shall be, that the city which is next unto the slain man, even the elders of that city shall take an heifer, which hath not been wrought with, and which hath not drawn in the yoke; And the elders of that city shall bring down the heifer unto a rough _____, which is neither eared nor sown, and shall strike off the heifer's neck there in the valley:

The offering of the red heifer was a very imposing ceremony. The heifer was not taken to the temple, like most other offerings, but to a rough valley outside the camp, that had never been cultivated or sown. The priest, clothed in the pure white garment of the priesthood, led the heifer and was accompanied by the elders of the city and the Levites. Cedarwood, hyssop, and scarlet were also carried to the place of offering.

When the procession reached the rough valley, they paused, and the elders came forward and killed the heifer. The priest then took the blood, and with his face toward the temple, sprinkled the blood with his finger toward the temple seven times.

If a person had been found dead in the field and it was not known who had taken the life, then the elders of the city next to where the slain man had been found, came forward and washed their hands over the body of the heifer as they offered a prayer to God requesting that the Lord would not lay innocent blood upon them. After this, the heifer's entire body, including the blood, was burned. As the flames mounted up, the priest stepped near and cast some of the cedarwood, hyssop, and scarlet into the midst of the fire.

5) What does the author of Hebrews tell us about where Jesus suffered?

Hebrews 13:12-13 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered _____ the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.

Note: In the King James Version, the word "without" means outside.

The red heifer was offered outside the camp, typifying that Christ suffered, not for the Hebrew race alone, but for the whole world. If every offering had been slain within the court of the sanctuary, some might have taught that Christ died only for His own people, the Hebrew race; but the red heifer was offered outside the camp symbolizing the fact that Christ died for all nations tribes, and people.

The condescension and love of the Lord is wonderful. Lest some poor, forlorn, discouraged soul should think he was not worthy to accept the offered sacrifice, the red heifer was not only taken outside the camp but to a rough valley, so rocky and utterly worthless that it had never even been plowed. No one had ever attempted to cultivate it; and yet here was the place chosen to sprinkle the blood of that special offering which typified Christ in a particular sense, It typified Him as one who is above law.



6) What did Jesus tell the thief on the cross?

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, _____ shalt thou be with me in paradise.

It does not matter if Satan has so marred the image of the Creator in man that there can scarcely a trace be seen of anything but the attributes of Satan, yet Christ with His mighty arm can raise such a one up to sit with Him on His throne. The whole life may be wasted and be, like the rough valley, of no account; but if such a one will turn his eyes toward the heavenly sanctuary, and plead for mercy by confessing his sins, the precious blood of Christ, of which the blood of the red heifer was a symbol, will be sprinkled over his wasted life, as verily as the blood of the heifer was sprinkled over the rough stones of the valley; and Christ will say to the repentant one as He did to the thief on the cross, who had wasted his life. **“Thou shalt be with Me in paradise.”**

7) What is one of the things God is able to do?

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to _____ them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

There are none so sunken in sin or in heathen darkness but that hope and salvation are held out to them through the typical offering of the red heifer. This sacrifice was a shadow of heavenly things. Now type has met anti-type. Christ has suffered outside the camp for the sins of the whole world. There are none so sunken but that He can lift them up. It may look impossible to man; the customs and habits of the world may condemn a person, and say he is lost, but Christ is above all law. He can save to the uttermost all who come unto God by Him.

8) What did they do with the ashes of the Red Heifer Offering?

Numbers 19:9 And a man that is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer, and lay them up without the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of separation: it is a _____ for sin.

Numbers 19:10 And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a _____ for ever.

After the body of the heifer was burned to ashes, a person who was not contaminated by touching the dead, gathered up the ashes and placed them in a clean place, and they were kept to be used for purifying those who touched the dead. If a person died in a tent or house, the house and all who touched the dead body were counted unclean until purified. This was to impress the people with the terrible nature of sin. It taught them that death came as the result of sin, and was a representation of sin. It taught them that death came as the result of sin, and was a representation of sin.



9) How were the ashes used to cleanse unclean people?

Numbers 19:17 And for an unclean person they shall take of the ashes of the burnt heifer of _____ for sin, and running water shall be put thereto in a vessel:

Numbers 19:18 And a clean person shall take hyssop, and dip it in the water, and _____ it upon the tent, and upon all the vessels, and upon the persons that were there, and upon him that touched a bone, or one slain, or one dead, or a grave:

Numbers 19:19 And the clean person shall sprinkle upon the unclean on the third day, and on the seventh day: and on the seventh day he shall purify himself, and wash his clothes, and bathe himself in water, and shall be _____ at even.

10) What happens to the person who refuses to be cleansed?

Numbers 19:20 But the man that shall be unclean, and shall not purify himself, that soul shall be _____ off from among the congregation, because he hath defiled the sanctuary of the LORD: the water of separation hath not been sprinkled upon him; he is unclean.

Some of the ashes were placed in pure running water, and a person who was ceremonially clean dipped a bunch of hyssop and cedar in the ashes and water and sprinkled the tent, the articles within the tent, and the people. This was repeated several times until all were purified.

11) What did Jesus do for us?

Hebrews 9:11-12 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own _____ he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

The cedar and hyssop used to sprinkle the purifying water denoted that the person upon whom it fell was cleansed from all earthly moral defilement. The thoroughness of the work was typified by its being repeated several times.

Many people read their Bibles and pass over these beautiful types as ceremonies peculiar to the Jews, and meaning nothing to Christians. They consider the Old Testament of little value. But the Lord through Moses gave that wonderful galaxy of types and symbols contained in the sanctuary service and the Levitical laws; and Moses was so fearful lest the people might think he had given them the service, that over two hundred times we find him assuring them that God Himself was the Author of them, by such expressions as "**The Lord said,**" or "**The Lord commanded.**" He desired all to know that God had given that marvelous system of types and shadows, not only throwing light from Eden to the cross, but revealing to sinful man the work of Christ from the cross to the end of time. These typical ceremonies, like a great reflector, throw light upon the ministry of Christ that cannot be obtained in any other portion of the Scriptures. The Saviour taught that a study of the writings of Moses would strengthen faith in Him. "**Had ye believed Moses,**" He said, "**ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe My words?**" **John 5:46-47**



The Offering of the Red Heifer

Can you see how Jesus' sacrifice was in the Red Heifer Offering? _____

Are you interested in becoming clean? _____

Will you now ask Him now to help you follow His example? _____