

Shabbat Parah
Shabbat of the Red Heifer

Torah: Numbers 19:1-22
Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38
Brit Chadasha: Hebrews 9:13-14

All verses are from the Tree of Life Bible

TORAH:

Numbers 19:1-22

Red Heifer and Cleansing Water

1 *Adonai* spoke to Moses and Aaron saying,

2 “This is the statute of the *Torah* which *Adonai* commanded saying: Speak to *Bnei-Yisrael* that they bring to you a flawless red heifer on which there is no blemish and on which has never been a yoke.

3 Give her to Eleazar the *kohen*. He will take her outside the camp and slaughter her in his presence.

4 Then Eleazar the *kohen* is to take some of the blood on his finger and sprinkle it seven times toward the front of the Tent of Meeting.

5 “While watching, he is to burn the heifer, her hide, flesh, blood and refuse.

6 The *kohen* is to take some cedar wood, hyssop and scarlet wool, and cast them into the midst of the burning heifer.

7 “Afterward, the *kohen* is to wash his clothes and bathe his flesh with the water, and afterward he may come back into the camp. Still the *kohen* will be unclean until evening.

8 Also the one burning it is to wash his clothes and bathe his flesh with the water, and he will be unclean until evening.

9 "A clean man is to gather up the ashes of the heifer and put them in a clean place outside the camp. They are to be for the community of *Bnei-Yisrael* to use as water of purification from sin.

10 "The one who gathers the heifer's ashes is also to wash his clothes as well as be unclean until evening. It will be a permanent statute for *Bnei-Yisrael* and for the outsider living among them.

11 "Whoever touches any dead body will be unclean for seven days.

12 He is to purify himself on the third day and on the seventh day. Then he will be clean. But if he does not purify himself on the third and seventh days, he will not be clean.

13 Anyone touching the dead body of any man, who does not purify himself, defiles *Adonai's* Tabernacle, and that person will be cut off from Israel. Because the cleansing water was not sprinkled on him, he is unclean and his uncleanness will remain on him.

14 "This is the *Torah* for whenever a person dies in a tent. Anyone entering the tent or anyone inside the tent will be unclean seven days.

15 Any open container not having a lid fastened on it will also be unclean.

16 Anyone out in the open field who touches a dead body, whether killed by a sword or was killed by a natural cause, or touches a human bone or a grave, shall be unclean seven days.

17 "For the unclean one, they are to take some of the ash of the burnt purification offering, and pour some fresh water into a jar.

18 Then a clean person will take some hyssop, dip it into the water, and, sprinkle it on the tent, all of the furnishings, and the people who were there, as well as the one touching the bone, the one killed, the corpse or the grave.

19 The clean person will sprinkle the unclean one on the third and seventh days. He is to purify himself on the seventh day, and on the seventh day he is to wash his clothes and bathe himself in water, and at evening he will be clean.

20 However, that man who is unclean but does not purify himself will be cut off from the community. He has defiled the Sanctuary of *Adonai*, since the cleansing water was not sprinkled on him. He is unclean.

21 This will be a permanent ordinance for them. The one sprinkling the cleansing water is also to wash his clothes, and anyone touching the cleansing water will be unclean until evening.

22 Anything touched by an unclean person becomes unclean, and anyone touching it will be unclean until evening.”

HAFTARAH

Ezekiel 36:16-38

16 The word of *Adonai* came to me saying:

17 “Son of man, when the house of Israel lived in their own land, they defiled it by their way and by their deeds. Their way before Me was like the uncleanness of a woman in her *niddah* .

18 So I poured out My fury on them for the blood which they had shed upon the land and because they had defiled it with their idols.

19 I scattered them among the nations, so they were dispersed through the countries. According to their way and their deeds I judged them.

20 Wherever they went among the nations, they profaned My holy Name, since it was said about them, ‘These are the people of *Adonai*, yet they had to leave His land.’

21 But I had concern for My holy Name, which the house of Israel had profaned among the nations wherever they went.

22 “Therefore say to the house of Israel, thus says *Adonai Elohim*: ‘I do not do this for your sake, house of Israel, but for My holy Name, which you profaned among the nations wherever you went.

23 I will sanctify My great Name, which has been profaned among the nations—which you have profaned among them. The nations will know that I am *Adonai*” —it is a declaration of *Adonai*—“when I am sanctified in you before their eyes.”

New Heart, New Spirit

24 “For I will take you from the nations, gather you out of all the countries and bring you back to your own land.

25 Then I will sprinkle clean water on you and you will be clean from all your uncleanness and from all your idols.

26 Moreover I will give you a new heart. I will put a new spirit within you. I will remove the stony heart from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 I will put My *Ruach* within you. Then I will cause you to walk in My laws, so you will keep My rulings and do them.

28 Then you will live in the land that I gave to your fathers. You will be My people and I will be your God.

29 “So I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful. I will not bring a famine upon you.

30 I will multiply the fruit of the tree and the produce of the field, so that you will no longer bear the disgrace of famine among the nations.

31 When you remember your evil ways and your deeds that were not good, you will be disgusted with yourselves because of your iniquities and your abominations.

32 Not for your sake will I do this”—it is a declaration of *Adonai*—“let that be known to you. Be ashamed and confounded for your ways, house of Israel!”

33 Thus says *Adonai Elohim*: “In the day that I pronounce you clean from all your iniquities, I will cause the cities to be inhabited and the ruins will be rebuilt.

34 The land that was desolate will be tilled instead of being a wasteland in the sight of all that passed by.

35 They will say, ‘This land that was a wasteland has become like the garden of Eden. The waste, desolate and ruined cities are fortified and inhabited.’

36 Then the nations that are left all around you will know that I, *Adonai*, have rebuilt the ruined places, and replanted what was desolate. I, *Adonai*, have spoken it. So I will do it.”

37 Thus says *Adonai Elohim*: “I will again be inquired of by the house of Israel, to do it for them—I will populate them with people like a flock.

38 Like the holy flock, like the flock of Jerusalem during her *moadim*, so the waste cities will be filled with flocks of people. Then they will know that I am *Adonai*.”

BRIT CHADASHA

Hebrews 9:13-14

13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh,

14 how much more will the blood of Messiah—who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God—cleanse our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?