

Torah Portion #39: Chukat (חוקת) "statute"

Torah ~ Numbers 19:1-22:1 | Prophets ~ Judges 11:1-33 | New Covenant ~ John 3:9-21, 12:27-50; Heb. 9:11-28

The Red Heifer

In this Torah Portion the Lord gives us the instructions of the Red Heifer in *Numbers 19:1-22*. There are many similarities between the Red Heifer and Yeshua. These similarities can help us better understand who Yeshua is and His crucifixion.

The Red Heifer and Yeshua

- * *Numbers 19:2* says that the sacrifice had to be a heifer (female). This is because from the female comes life.
John 3:16 says that if we accept God's only Son, Yeshua, as our Lord and Messiah, we will have everlasting life.
- * *Numbers 19:2* says that the heifer had to be red. Red is associated with blood, the means to purification. (*Isaiah 1:18*)
Hebrews 9:11-15; 10:11-14 tells us that the blood of Yeshua is the only blood that purifies us eternally from our sins.
- * *Numbers 19:2* says that the Red Heifer had to be without blemish or spot (flawless).
1 Peter 1:19 says that Yeshua was "a lamb without blemish or spot" *ESV*.
- * *Numbers 19:2* says that the Red Heifer is to have never had a "yoke" placed on it.
2 Corinthians 5:21 says that Yeshua never had the "yoke" of sin, because He never knew sin.
- * *Numbers 19:5* says that the ashes was mixed with water and then sprinkled on those who were unclean.
John 4:13-14 says that Yeshua is the living water (Mayim Chayim) that leads to eternal life.
- * *Numbers 19:5* says that the Red Heifer was to be sacrificed (burned) whole just like the Passover lamb.
John 19:31-36 says Yeshua's body was to remain whole during His sacrifice for us, with not one bone being broken.
- * *Numbers 19:18-19* says that the priest who did the sprinkling did not become clean, instead he became unclean.
1 Peter 2:24 says that our "clean" High Priest, Yeshua, took on our uncleanness in His body on the Cross.

The Location of Yeshua's Crucifixion

Numbers 19:3 says that the Red Heifer had to be killed outside the camp.
Hebrews 13:12 speaks of the location of the crucifixion when it says that Yeshua "*suffered outside the city gate*" *NIV*.

There are two traditional sites in Jerusalem for the place where Yeshua was crucified, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Garden Tomb. But there is an old Roman law that says crucifixions must take place where the criminal was arrested. Yeshua was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane on the Mt of Olives, across the valley from the Temple.

The Bible says that all sacrifices had to be on the east side of the Tabernacle (Temple). According to Rabbinical writings, the Red Heifer was sacrificed on an altar located 2000 cubits outside the Eastern Gate of Jerusalem on the Mt of Olives. The Priest sacrificing the Red Heifer had to be able to see directly into the entrance of the Holy Place. There is also an old book called "The Gospel of Nicodemus" that says Yeshua was crucified in the garden where he was arrested.

It is believed from passages in *Matthew 27:51-54* & *Luke 23:45-48* that the site of the crucifixion had to be on high ground such as the Mt of Olives. This is due to the fact that onlookers of the crucifixion could see the veil in the Temple being torn into, along with the other things that happened at Yeshua's death.

In Closing

Repentance is the primary message of both the Red Heifer and Yeshua.

Matthew 7:3-5 says that we first need to repent of our own sin before we point out the sins of others.

1 John 1:8-9 "(8) If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." *NIV*

Yeshua said in *Matthew 4:17* to "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" *ESV*