

# Chosen by God

## The Jewish Roots of Christianity

### The Red Heifer

The offering of the Red Heifer is considered one of the deepest mysteries of the Torah, one that requires obedience without human understanding. It is said that Solomon, in all of his wisdom, did not understand the purpose of the burning of the red heifer. So, as Christians, thousands of years after the initial instruction given to Moses in Numbers 19, what can we glean from the ashes of the red heifer?

As we now look at the Water of Separation, made from the heifer's ashes and running (living) water, put into a vessel set apart for just this purpose, and then sprinkled on the unclean with hyssop, what is it that God wants us to see? What is

He showing us in an image so that we might see with the eyes of our heart? Who is the running water? What are the ashes? Who is now the vessel?

It was not moral sin that was purified by the ashes of the Red Heifer mixed with water, it was the sin of contamination, the unavoidable contact with death, that made the people too unclean to even remain in camp with other people, let alone stay in the presence of God. So, God gave a prescription to enable His people to rise above the ill of death. Still today, even if we manage to avoid moral sin, we cannot escape the hold of death—except by the treasure we store in our own jars of clay, the mix of the living water of Christ mixed with the ashes of His sacrifice and blood. He went outside the camp so that we don't have to!

*“Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.” Isaiah 46:9-10*

Who was a requirement of the law given to in Num. 19:1,2? \_\_\_\_\_

What requirements were given for the animal involved? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this have in common with the burnt offering (Lev. 1:3,10), the peace offering (Lev. 3:1,6), the sin offering (Lev. 4:3), and the fellowship offering (Lev. 22:21)? \_\_\_\_\_

What specific defects were unacceptable according to Lev. 22:22? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways do the requirements of the red heifer differ from the requirements for the normal sacrifices? \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Water of Cleansing

According to rabbinic tradition, having as few as two hairs that were not red would disqualify an animal, even its hooves had to be red! Added to the other requirements, such as an animal that has never done any work, this makes it a rare animal indeed. It is said that only nine such heifers have been burnt in all of Jewish history, and the tenth and last will be prepared by the Messiah. (Jewish Virtual Library)

Where were sacrificial animals to be killed according to Lev. 17:5? \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the red heifer to be killed? (19:3) \_\_\_\_\_

The historical location of this site is on the Mount of Olives, at Miphkad Altar (currently in Muslim hands), across from the East Gate of the Temple.

How is the red heifer ritual similar to the purification of the leper recorded in Lev. 14:7? \_\_\_\_\_

What part of the red heifer was to be burned? \_\_\_\_\_

What was usually first removed from a burnt offering? ( Lev.1:3-9) \_\_\_\_\_

Who was made unclean during this whole process? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Israelites need cleansed from in Ezek. 36:24-29? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways does Heb. 9:12-14 present the red heifer as an image of Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

What is likely the sacrifice referred to in Heb. 13:10-12? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was made “unclean” that we might be cleansed from the contamination of death? \_\_\_\_\_

Besides our own sin, in what ways have we been contaminated and made unfit for God or people by our surroundings? \_\_\_\_\_

What argument is there that the jars that Jesus had filled with water at the wedding at Cana (John 2:6) were actually jars used for the Water of Purification? \_\_\_\_\_

What added meaning would this give the miracle that occurred there? \_\_\_\_\_

What is significant about the use of “living” water to mix with the ashes of the red heifer? \_\_\_\_\_

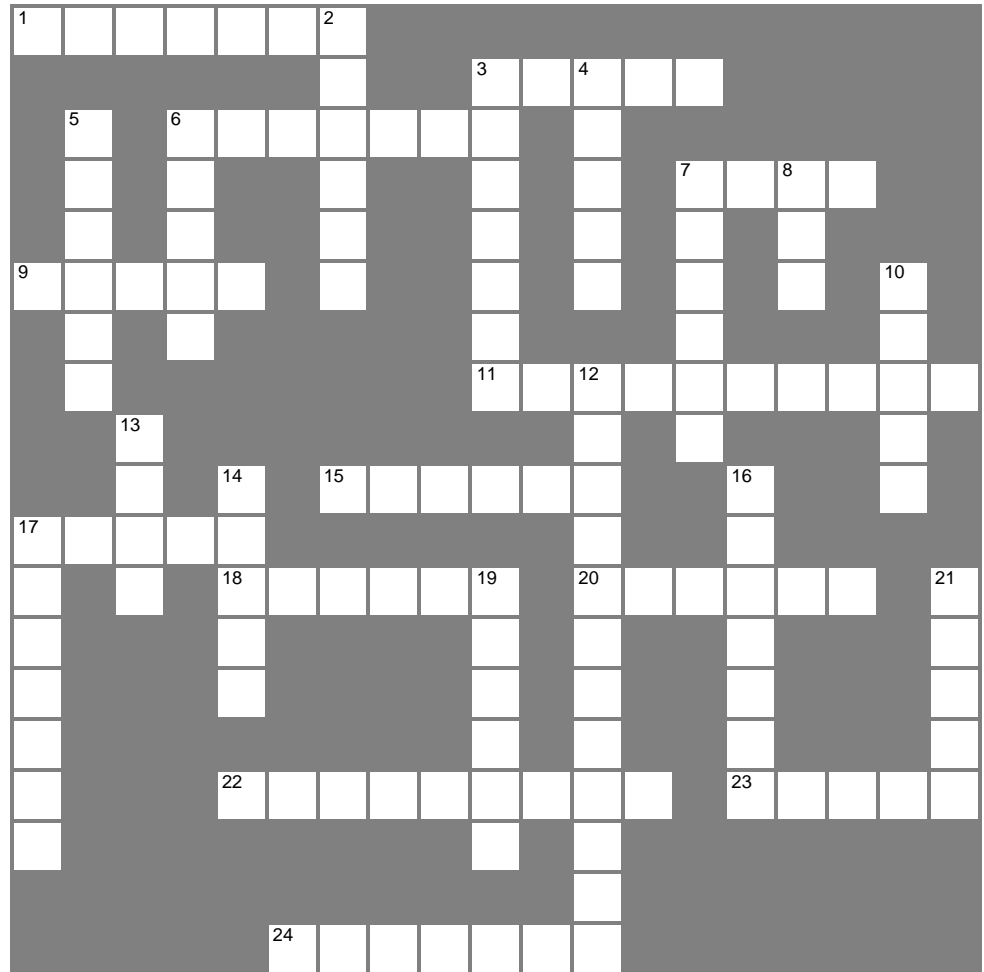
In 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1, how does Paul address our same need for the Water of Separation? \_\_\_\_\_

How does the study of the Red Heifer prepare us to recognize what Christ has done for us as described in Eph. 5:25-27? \_\_\_\_\_

# Puzzle Page — Red Heifer

The next perfectly unblemished red heifer is eagerly anticipated by the Jewish people, and many Christians as well. Since by Jewish record this would be the tenth red heifer, it is thought that this will herald the coming of the Messiah (1st time for the Jews, 2nd time for the Christians).

There is also a search for the remaining ashes of the last red heifer since the remaining ashes were always mixed with the fresh supply so that, at least in theory, the current ashes contain at least a bit of all the ashes since that first red heifer!



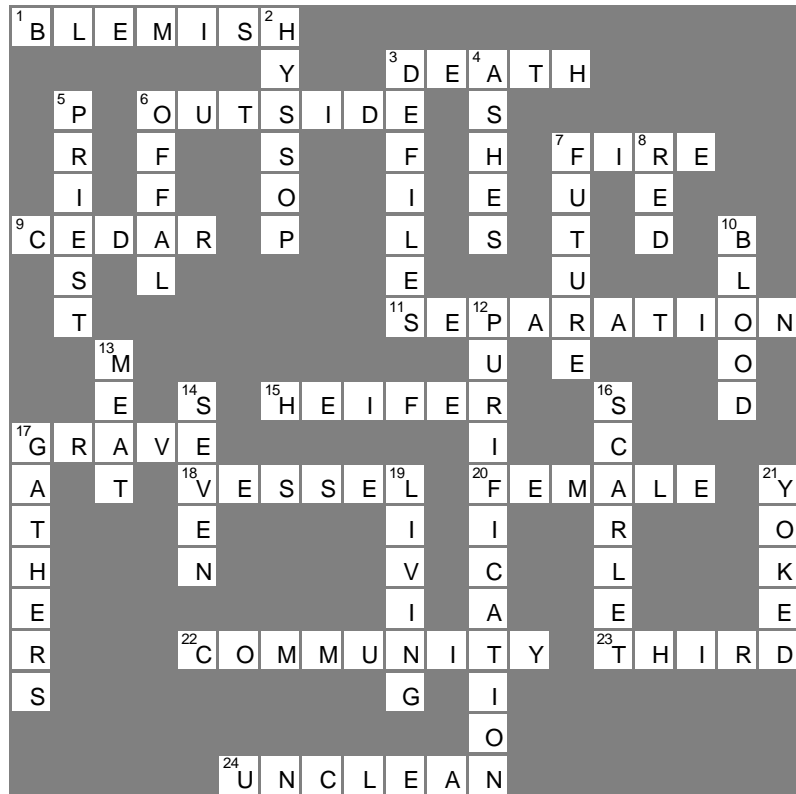
## Across

- 1 this animal could have no \_\_\_\_\_ (7)
- 3 defiled by this (5)
- 6 animal slain in this part of camp instead of at the entrance to the tabernacle (7)
- 7 red heifer entirely consumed by this (4)
- 9 wood thrown into the fire (5)
- 11 water of \_\_\_\_\_ (10)
- 15 cow that has not given birth (6)
- 17 unclean for seven days after touching this (5)
- 18 water and ashes were mixed in this (6)
- 20 not male (6)
- 22 who the ashes are for (9)
- 23 the person who touches a dead body must purify himself on the \_\_\_\_\_ day and seventh day (5)
- 24 the one who burns the heifer (7)

## Down

- 2 used to sprinkle water (6)
- 3 failure to purify \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord's tabernacle (7)
- 4 left outside camp, available to people as needed (5)
- 5 even after washing, is unclean until evening (6)
- 6 burned, unlike most sacrifices (5)
- 7 for cleansing \_\_\_\_\_ sins rather than past (6)
- 8 mandatory coloring (3)
- 10 burned, unlike most sacrifices (5)
- 12 what the ashes are for (12)
- 13 none of it given to the priests (4)
- 14 number of times blood was sprinkled toward tabernacle (5)
- 16 wool thrown into the fire (7)
- 17 the man who \_\_\_\_\_ the ashes is unclean (7)
- 19 water used to mix with ashes (6)
- 21 this animal must never have been \_\_\_\_\_ (5)

# Puzzle Answers



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