

#17 The Water for Impurity

(Crystallization-Study of Numbers 2)2019/9/9-15

I. Numbers 19, a very special chapter in the Old Testament, is a record concerning the water for impurity.

II. The impurity in this chapter does not refer to sin but to death: Num. 19:13 Whoever touches a dead person...and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of Jehovah; ...Because the water for impurity was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; ...

A. Death issues from sin, and sin is the root of death:

1. Death is more defiling in the eyes of God than sin.

2. The most hateful thing in the eyes of God is death; death is an ugly, abominable thing, and we should detest it.

3. The death that we need to avoid is spiritual death:

a. Spiritual death is more prevailing on earth than physical death. Rom. 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. b. Spiritual death is everywhere; not only sinful, worldly places but even the most moral, ethical places are full of spiritual death.

B. From the sin of rebellion in Numbers 11 through 14 and in chapter 16, death became prevailing among the children of Israel:

1. After the rebellion of the children of Israel in Numbers 16 and as a result of God's judgment, the entire population of Israel was under the effect of death. 2. The filthiness of death had spread everywhere, and the people were in a situation of impurity. 3. In chapter 19 God told them to prepare the water for impurity with the ashes of a red heifer so that they might use the water to remove the filthiness of death with which they had been affected.

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III. The red heifer, the principal component of the water for impurity, signifies the redeeming Christ:

A. The color red signifies the likeness of the flesh of sin, which is for the bearing of man's sin outwardly. Rom. 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh.

B. The red heifer was without defect; this signifies that although Christ was in the likeness of the flesh of sin, He did not have the sinful nature.

C. That the heifer was without blemish indicates that Christ was perfect.

Num. 19:2 ...Tell the children of Israel to bring you a red heifer without defect, in which is no blemish and upon which a yoke has never come.

D. The heifer having never been under a yoke signifies that Christ was never used by anyone, especially by or for God's enemy, Satan. E. The red heifer was brought outside the camp and slaughtered; Christ was crucified outside the camp, on Calvary, a small mount outside the city of Jerusalem.

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IV. The slain red heifer was burned, and the priest took "cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet strands, and cast them into the midst of the burning of the heifer":

Num. 19:6 And the priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet strands, and cast them into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

A. Cedar wood signifies the honorable and uplifted humanity of the Lord, which enables Him to be our Savior:

1. In the Bible a cedar, a tall and strong tree, refers to a humanity that is filled with glory.

2. Cedar, in typology, indicates the resurrected, ascended, glorified, and honored humanity of Jesus.

3. Cedar wood signifies Christ's heavenly humanity, His glorified humanity, and His heavenly human life.

4. Just as the cedar tree far transcends over all other trees, Christ is the only glorified man among all men.

5. As signifies by cedar, Christ is a person who has ascended into heaven and whose excellency and uplifted and noble humanity transcend all others.

B. Hyssop, which is among the smallest of plants, signifies that the Lord was willing to be lowly, becoming in the likeness of men, so that He might be near to man and become man's Savior. Phil. 2:7 But emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming in the likeness of men.

C. On the one hand, the Lord has the highest standard of humanity, as typified by cedar wood; on the other hand, He was willing to become lowly so that He might be available to us, as typified by hyssop.

D. Scarlet, a dark red color, implies much in typology:

1. The color scarlet signifies the shedding of blood, referring to the redeeming work of the cross.

2. In Leviticus 14:4 scarlet signifies that the Lord lowered Himself to become a man that He might do the will of God and shed His blood for our redemption.

3. Scarlet signifies the blood of Christ shed for our redemption in its highest significance.

E. The high and dignified Christ and the lowly and humbled Christ in His redemption were elements for the composition of the water for impurity.

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V. The ashes of the heifer were gathered up and placed outside the camp in a clean place to be kept for the assembly of the children of Israel as water for impurity:

Num. 19:9 And a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and place them outside the camp in a clean place, and it shall be kept for the assembly of the children of Israel as water for impurity; it is a sin offering.

A. Ashes signify the result of Christ's death:

1. In the Bible ashes signify something in its final form.

2. To be reduced to ashes is to be reduced to nothing.

3. In Numbers 19:9 ashes signify Christ reduced to nothing. Mark 9:12 ...it is written of the Son of Man that He should suffer many things and be counted as nothing...

B. After the cedar, the hyssop, and the scarlet strands were burned with the heifer, the ashes were gathered up and kept in a clean place; this is what makes the red heifer unique.

C. The eternal efficacy of Christ's redemption can be seen in the type of the ashes of the red heifer that was slaughtered and burned. Heb. 9:12 ... through His own blood, entered once for all into the Holy of Holies, obtaining an eternal redemption.

D. These ashes were kept for the water for impurity; it was a purification of sin, or a sin offering: 1. If an Israelite touched something unclean and became unclean before God, a clean person could mix the water for impurity with the ashes and sprinkle it on the unclean person; this would remove the person's uncleanness. 2. The ashes were used to remove uncleanness; they were prepared for the future and would be used when uncleanness was detected at a later time.

E. One aspect of the work of the Lord Jesus is like that of the

ashes of the red heifer:

1. The ashes of the red heifer signify the eternal and unchanging efficacy of the Lord's redemption: **a.** The ashes of the red heifer signify the Lord's redemption, which He has accomplished for us. Rom. 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus. Eph. 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace. **b.** His redemption is forever unchanging and incorruptible.

2. Whenever an Israelite touched something unclean, he needed only to have the ashes of the red heifer mixed with the water for impurity and to have it sprinkled on his body.

3. The Lord's redemption has accomplished everything; He made provision for all our future uncleanness and future sins: **a.** The ashes are specifically for the future. **b.** The ashes of the red heifer tell us that the past work of the cross is applicable for our use today. **c.** The red heifer has been burned once for all, and its ashes are enough to cover our entire life. **d.** We thank the Lord that His redemption is sufficient for our whole life. **Thu**

VI. Numbers 19:17 speaks of the burning of the red heifer and the running water that was added to the ashes in a vessel:

A. The running (literally, living) water in Numbers 19:17 signifies the Holy Spirit in the resurrection of Christ.

John 7:38-39 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. But this He said concerning the Spirit...

B. In the water for impurity, there is the efficacy of Christ's redemption with the washing power of the Spirit of His resurrection.

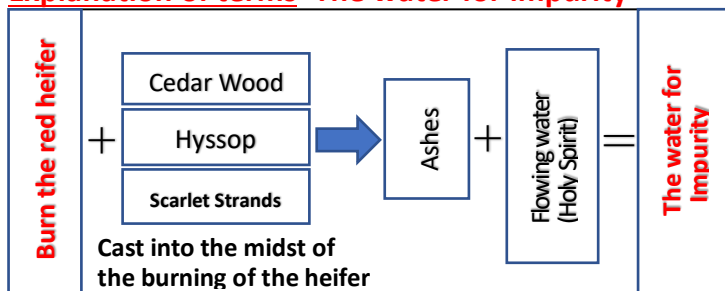
VII. Because death was prevailing among the children of Israel, there was the need for the water of impurity, and whenever we are defiled by death, we need Christ as the reality of the red heifer for the water for impurity:

A. In Numbers 19 the water for impurity cleansed away and annulled the effect of death that came from the great rebellion in chapter 16.

B. The water for impurity, to which the ashes were added, typifies the efficacy of Christ's redemption, which continually cleanses us by the living water of life in order to restore our fellowship with God. 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 Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

C. Only the working of Christ's redemption, through His dignified and humbled humanity, with His death and the Spirit of His resurrection, could heal and cleanse the situation from the uncleanness of death. **Fri/Sat**

Explanation of terms: The water for impurity



The red heifer: **(1)** The color red signifies the likeness of the flesh of sin **(2)** Without defect **(3)** Without blemish **(4)** The heifer having never been under a yoke signifies that Christ was never used by this world, Satan, and sin.

Cedar wood: Signifies Christ's dignified humanity.

Hyssop: Signifies Christ's humbled humanity.

Scarlet: Signifies the highest significance of redemption.

Ashes of the red heifer: Signifies the eternal and unchanging efficacy of the Lord's redemption.

Crucial Point(1): Keeping yourself from gossiping and any rebellion to the deputy authority and do not touch the spiritual death

OL1: The most hateful thing in the eyes of God is death; death is an ugly, abominable thing, and we should detest it. The death that we need to avoid is spiritual death. **OL2:** From the sin of rebellion in Numbers 11 through 14 and in chapter 16, death became prevailing among the children of Israel. **OL3:** In chapter 19 God told them to prepare the water for impurity with the ashes of a red heifer so that they might use the water to remove the filthiness of death with which they had been affected.

In Numbers 19 a heifer is burned with other items, and the ashes are used to make a water for impurity. By reading the whole chapter we can understand that the impurity, the uncleanness, refers mainly to the filthiness of death. This water is a provision to get rid of the effect and impurity of death.

Immediately after the rebellion in chapter 16, death was everywhere. In one day 14,700 people died, and their carcasses lay everywhere. In many of the tents in the camp, there were dead bodies. A man became contaminated by touching a dead body, by being present when a person died, or by entering the tent where a dead body had been. The entire population of two million Israelites was under the effect of death. They were all in a situation of impurity. Thus, there was the need for the water for impurity to annul the effect and impurity of death.

Death is an ugly, abominable thing. Therefore, we need to abstain from death.... The death from which we should abstain is not mainly physical death but spiritual death.... Spiritual death is everywhere. Not only sinful, worldly places but even the most moral, ethical places are full of spiritual death.

Application to the young people and college students

You need to be watchful not only to the sinful things and worldly things and flee from them, but also need to be watchful not to touch the spiritual death. The spiritual death is more abominable than sin and it comes from gossips and the rebellion to the order etc.

You need to keep yourself from the bad gossips about your classmates and teachers and try not to participate in them. The friends who gossip may think that you are strange because you are not joining them, but you should not have part in them because gossips spread death. Also because God loves the people in the world, we should speak the word of grace of the gospel, not the gossips that hurt people. If you speak gossip, you cannot preach the gospel.

Also, every order was determined by God. The resistance to the order or the environment that God arranged is the rebellion toward God. Apparently certain situation can not be considered as immoral, but its motive is basically rebellion. In Genesis 3:3-5 "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die! For God

knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil”, Satan the Devil said these words to Eve and caused her to doubt God’s word and led her and set her against God. These Satan’s words apparently do not contain anything immoral. But these are full of rebellion toward God and full of death. As the result of receiving these words of Satan, Adam and Eve have fallen.

For instance, Satan may propose you that you don’t need to submit to your teacher by pointing out the teacher’s shortcomings. At such time, please remember that every environment is arranged by God. And by calling on the name of the Lord, learn to be submissive to your teacher by the grace of God. Otherwise, you would touch death and put yourself under the judgement of God and you cannot be blessed by God. Please remember “God hates death more than He hates sin”.

Prayer: “Oh Lord Jesus, give me the spiritual discernment to distinguish death. God hates death more than he hates sin. Gossiping and rebellion to the order cause me to touch death. Oh Lord Jesus, forgive the sin of rebellion inside of me. By relying on Lord’s grace, help me that I would not act rebelliously. Amen.”

Crucial Point(2): The red heifer signifies the eternal efficacy of the Lord’s redemption. The ashes are mixed with the Holy Spirit and apply to cleanse the defiled people

OL1: Whenever an Israelite touched something unclean, he needed only to have the ashes of the red heifer mixed with the water for impurity and to have it sprinkled on his body.

OL2: The Lord’s redemption has accomplished everything; He made provision for all our future uncleanness and future sins.

Heb. 9:12 And not through the blood of goats and calves but through His own blood, entered once for all into the Holy of Holies, obtaining an eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who are defiled sanctify to the purity of the flesh, 14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God? v.12 FN “obtaining an eternal redemption” : Christ accomplished redemption on the cross, but it was not until He entered into the heavenly Holy of Holies through the redeeming blood, i.e., when He brought His redeeming blood to offer it before God, that He obtained the redemption that has an eternal effect.

v.14 FN “through the eternal Spirit”: On the cross Christ offered Himself to God in the human body, which was under the limitation of time. But He offered Himself through the eternal Spirit, who is of eternity and is not under the limitation of time. Hence, in the eyes of God, Christ as the Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world. His offering of Himself was once for all, and the redemption consummated through His death is eternal, having an eternal effect. The span of His redemption fully covers the span of sin.

One aspect of the Lord’s work is like that of the ashes of the red heifer. The efficacy of redemption is signified by the ashes. The sins of the whole world are in it, and the blood is also in it. Whenever a man becomes unclean or has touched some unclean things, he does not need to kill another red heifer and offer it to God. He only needs to take the ashes of

the red heifer that was offered once and mix them with water and sprinkle them on the body. In other words, there is no need for the Lord to do anything a second time. His redemption accomplished everything. He made provision for all of our future uncleanness and future sins.

What do the ashes signify? In the Bible, ashes signify something in its final form. Whether a bull or a lamb, its final form after being burned is ashes. Ashes are very stable; they do not corrupt into something else. We cannot corrupt or destroy ashes.

The ashes of the red heifer signify the eternal and unchanging efficacy of the Lord’s redemption. The redemption which our Lord accomplished for us is most stable. Do not think that rocks on mountains are stable. Even rocks can be burned into ashes. Ashes are more stable than rocks. The ashes of the red heifer signify the Lord’s redemption which He has prepared for us. It is forever unchanging and incorruptible. We may apply it any time.

Application to the new ones

Through the eternal Spirit, Christ has accomplished the eternal redemption, there is no need for Christ to be put on the cross again. The ashes of the red heifer signify the eternal and unchanging efficacy of the redemption of Christ. These ashes are sufficient for you to use during your whole life. Thank the Lord. If you touch the unclean things and became defiled before God, you need to be sprinkled with the water for impurity which was mixed with running water which signifies the Holy Spirit with the ashes which signify the eternal redemption. If the Holy Spirit which is compounded with the eternal efficacy of Lord’s redemption is applied to you, your defilement is removed. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord.

When you are defiled by touching the spiritual death, please repent and come back to the Lord and confess your sins by exercising your spirit. Then, because the life giving Spirit is the compound all-inclusive Spirit, it works as “the water for impurity” and can take away your defilement.

For instance, you have competitiveness toward the brothers and sisters who care for you, and you have criticized them. Such a state is different from mere the state of a sin. By rebellion, you have touched the spiritual death and got defiled. Now you need to pray following, “Oh Lord Jesus, save me from saying excuses concerning my rebellion. To criticize my serving ones is the sign of rebellion and according to the Bible, this sign is clearly distinguished from other general sins. Because the sin of rebellion brings spiritual death and God hates death more than He hates sins. Lord, have mercy on me. The ashes which are the eternal redemption, are compounded now with the running water which is the Holy Spirit. Sprinkle this compound Spirit and cleanse me from the defilement of death.”

Crucial Point(3): Being cleansed by the water for impurity under the support by the clean person

OL1: Because death was prevailing among the children of Israel, there was the need for the water for impurity, and whenever we are defiled by death, we need Christ as the reality of the red heifer that was for the water for impurity.

OL2: In Numbers 19 the water for impurity cleansed away and annulled the effect of death that came from the great rebellion in chapter 16. OL3: The water for impurity, to which the ashes were added, typifies the efficacy of Christ’s

redemption, which continually cleanses us by the living water of life in order to restore our fellowship with God. **Num. 19:19** And the clean person shall sprinkle (the water for impurity) on the unclean on the third day and on the seventh day, and on the seventh day he shall purify him. And he shall wash his clothes and bathe himself in water and shall be clean in the evening.

Defilement is related to the old creation. Hence, in order for us to be purified, we must be in resurrection; if we remain in the old creation, we cannot be purified. On the third day the water for impurity was sprinkled, and on the seventh day the unclean person became clean. This signifies that after we apply the efficacy of the Lord's redemption in resurrection, we will become clean according to the time of completion.

Numbers 19:19 says that when the defiled person was purified, he needed to wash his clothes and bathe himself in water. Moreover, the person who sprinkled the water for impurity also had to wash his clothes. Bathing in water signifies dealing with oneself, and washing one's clothes signifies dealing with the entirety of one's conduct. Whenever we are defiled and commit a sin, we should be in the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit to apply the efficacy of the Lord's death to us in order to remove our defilement before God. We should also have a fresh dealing with ourselves and with the entirety of our conduct.

Chapter 19 reveals that we, the people of God, should continually allow the Holy Spirit to apply the efficacy of Christ's redemption to us so that we may be purified... Whatever is in us and whatever comes in contact with us is unclean. Every part of our inner being is also unclean. In order for us to serve God, we should continually learn to allow the Holy Spirit, who has been compounded with the efficacy of Christ's redemption, to be sprinkled on us so that we may be purified.

Application to the young working saints and graduate students

While you are living in the old creation, there is full of defilement in your inward. Moreover, there are a lot of defilement in your outward environment. If you are not enough watchful, you may easily touch these kinds of defilement and as a result you will die spiritually.

Once you involve with rumors or rebellious talking and actions, you will touch the spiritual death and be defiled. In this case, you should become humble to allow the clean brothers and sisters serving you to help you. According to Numbers, a clean person sprinkles the water for impurity on the unclean person. Because touching death is to commit an abominable and serious sin, you need to open to the clean persons and rely on them. With their support, you can exercise your own spirit to partake the compound spirit and be able to be cleansed with "the water for impurity".

In case that you become rebellious and so defiled, then accept the words of persons who point out that impurity for you. People may be slightly aware of such impurity, but it is difficult for them to accept it. It may not be easy for you to accept the advice of the person who cleanses you. But it is necessary for you so take up the Lord's grace and open to the person who can cleanse you.

Prayer: "O Lord Jesus. Please save me from rebelling against my boss by criticizing and murmuring about him. By involving with rebellion, I die spiritually, my spirit become weak, and I become unable to touch the Lord. When I

inadvertently become defiled by those sins, help me to open to those who are clean and help me and to rely on them. Under their help, may I be able to repent, exercise the spirit and be cleansed by the water for impurity!"

The Mystery of Human Life(2)

*** * * The miserable situation of human: "Strife" * * ***

- A.** Strife, ..., concerning evil moods. (FN2 of Gal. 5:20)
- B.** "...questionings and contentions of words, out of which come envy, strife, slanders, evil suspicions," (1 Tim. 6:4)
- C.** "contentions of words, which is useful for nothing, to the ruin of those who hear." (2 Tim. 2:14)
- D.** "Where do wars and fightings among you come from? Are they not from this, from your pleasures that war in your members?" (James. 4:1)
- E.** "For He Himself is our peace, He who has made both one and has broken down the middle wall of partition, the enmity, ... and might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it." (Eph. 2:14, 16)

*** * * The miserable situation of human: "Led away (astray)" * * ***

- A.** "For the love of money is a root of all evils, because of which some, aspiring after money, have been led away from the faith and pierced themselves through with many pains." (1 Tim. 6:10)
- B.** "...deceiving and being deceived." (2 Tim. 3:13)
- C.** "We all like sheep have gone astray; / Each of us has turned to his own way, / And Jehovah has caused the iniquity of us all / To fall on Him." (Isa. 53:6)
- D.** "For you were like sheep being led astray, but you have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." — Our soul is our inner being, our real person. Our Lord, as the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls, shepherds us by caring for the welfare of our inner being and by exercising His oversight over the condition of our real person. (FN3 of 1 Pet.2:25)

*** * * Our attitude should be: "Open" * * ***

- A.** "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come into him and dine with him and he with Me." (Rev. 3:20)
- B.** "O Lord, open my lips, / And my mouth will declare Your praise." (Psa. 51:15)
- C.** "Open my eyes that I may behold / Wondrous things out of Your law." (Psa. 119:18)
- D.** "I run the way of Your commandments, / For You enlarge my heart." (Psa. 119:32)
- E.** "I spread out my hands to You; / My soul thirsts for You like a parched land. Selah" (Psa.143:6)
- F.** "And He ... put His fingers into his ears, ... He groaned and said to him, ..., Be opened! And immediately his ears were opened, ..." (Mark 7:33-35)
- G.** "And the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit."—When we with unveiled face are beholding and reflecting the glory of the Lord, He infuses us with the elements of what He is and what He has done. Thus, we are being transformed metabolically to have His life shaped by His life power with His life essence; that is, we are being transfigured, mainly by the renewing of our mind, into His image. (2 Cor. 3:17-18, FN7 of verse 18)