

Chukat חוקת

Numbers 19:1 – 22:1

Numbers 19:1

וַיְדַבֵּר יְהוָה אֶל-מֹשֶׁה וְאֶל-אַהֲרֹן לֵאמֹר: זֹאת
חֻקַּת הַתּוֹרָה אֲשֶׁר-צִוָּה יְהוָה לֵאמֹר דַּבֵּר אֶל-בְּנֵי
יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּקְחוּ אֵלֶיךָ פָרָה אֲדָמָה תְּמִימָה אֲשֶׁר
אֵין-בָּהּ מוּם אֲשֶׁר לֹא-עָלָה עָלֶיהָ עֹל: וְנָתַתֶּם

19:1 Now the LORD spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, 2 “This is the statute of the law that the LORD has commanded: Tell the people of Israel to bring you a red heifer without defect, in which there is no blemish, and on which a yoke has never come.

Summary

Chapter 19

- Red Heffer

Chapter 20

- Death of Merriam
- Waters of Meribah
- Passage through Edom refused
- Death of Aaron

Summary

Chapter 21

- Fiery Serpents
- Journey to Moab
- King Sihon Defeated
- King Og Defeated

Numbers 19:1-3

- 1** Then the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying,
- 2** "This is the statute of the law which the LORD has commanded, saying, 'Speak to the sons of Israel that they bring you an unblemished red heifer in which is no defect [and] on which a yoke has never been placed.
- 3** 'You shall give it to Eleazar the priest, and it shall be brought outside the camp and be slaughtered in his presence.

Numbers 19:4-6

4 'Next Eleazar the priest shall take some of its blood with his finger and sprinkle some of its blood toward the front of the tent of meeting seven times.

5 'Then the heifer shall be burned in his sight; its hide and its flesh and its blood, with its refuse, shall be burned.

6 'The priest shall take cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet [material] and cast it into the midst of the burning heifer.

Numbers 19:7-9

7 *'The priest shall then wash his clothes and bathe his body in water, and afterward come into the camp, but the priest shall be unclean until evening.*

8 *'The one who burns it shall also wash his clothes in water and bathe his body in water, and shall be unclean until evening.*

9 *'Now a man who is clean shall gather up the ashes of the heifer and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and the congregation of the sons of Israel shall keep it as water to remove impurity; it is purification from sin.*

Numbers 19:10

10 'The one who gathers the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes and be unclean until evening; and it shall be a perpetual statute to the sons of Israel and to the alien who sojourns among them.

Water of Separation

נִדְדָּה Niddah

- impurity, filthiness, menstruous, set apart
- impurity
 - of ceremonial impurity
 - of menstruation
- impure thing (fig.)
 - of idolatry, immorality

Leviticus 15:19

19 And if a woman have an issue, [and] her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until the even.

Numbers 19:11,13

- 11 'The one who touches the corpse of any person shall be unclean for seven days.
- 13 'Anyone who touches a corpse, the body of a man who has died, and does not purify himself, defiles the tabernacle of the LORD; and that person shall be cut off from Israel. Because the water for impurity was not sprinkled on him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is still on him.

Observations

- The water of purification served the purpose to cleanse a person who became ritually unclean through touching a dead body.
- Those who created the water of purification became unclean through the process of performing the service. (until evening)
- There appears to be a physical and a spiritual aspect to this command.
- There are also correlations to Messiah.

Jhn 3:5, 12-15

- 5 Yeshua answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- ... 12 If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you [of] heavenly things?
- 13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [even] the Son of man which is in heaven.
- 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:
- 15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Numbers 21:5-6

5 The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food."

6 The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

Numbers 21:7-8

7 So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the LORD and you; intercede with the LORD, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people.

8 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery [serpent,] and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live."

How is this relevant to us today?

- We live concerned over the physical, but this teaches us that there are spiritual things, which we do not understand, that can only be resolved through observance of the torah.
- While physical uncleanness might last for an evening, spiritual uncleanness prevents us from entering His kingdom. (Tabernacle)
- Messiah was sent to take on the corruption of the world for the purification of sins, thus opening a path to free us from our separation.
- In service to others, there are times that we will become unclean, but obedience to His word (torah), can open a path for others to come near