

Shemini	Eighth	Fire in the Hole
Torah:	Lev. 9:1-11:47 (Num. 19:1-22)	
(1) 9:24		
(2) 10:19		
(3) 11:45		
(4) 11:47		
Haftarah:	Ez. 36:16-38	
(5) 36:26		
(6) 36:27		
Brit Chadashah:	Heb. 7:1-19	
(7) 7:17		

Adam's flesh (red heifer - Parah adamah) cleanses Adam's children

(1) **Why not a lamb or a kid?** Answer: There is atonement from **sin** and there is cleansing (atonement) from **impurity**. With a lamb, the sin is paid for (redeemed), with the heifer, defilement is cleansed – the one removes the penalty, the other absorbs the infection (2 Cor. 5:21 (Gal. 3:13)).

(2) **Why red?** (Posse pecare, posse non pecare means capable of sinning and capable of not sinning). Red is the likeness or the potential of sin, without actually being sin or sinning (Rom. 8:3; Heb. 2:17, 18; Heb. 4:15, 16).

(3) **Why a heifer and not a bull?** Answer: [*When the High Priest or the entire community sinned and needed atonement, a young bull (prepubescent) was offered up in three parts. **First** the priest would lay his hands on the bulls head and then it was slaughtered and its blood was sprinkled before the L-rd. **Second**, the fat, the kidneys and the liver were removed from the sacrifice and burned in the tabernacle. **Finally** all the other remains (the hide, the flesh, the head, the feet, the guts and the excrements) were burned on the kosher ash heap. No one ate any of the male atonement sacrifice.*

*When or a leader of the people sinned a prepubescent billy goat was used instead of a prepubescent bull. When an individual of the people sinned, a **female** kid or a **female** goat was offered in the same way. This time the priests ate the flesh (Lev. 7:15)].*

However, payment for sin is not the same as the removal of defilement. Defilement could only be removed by a pure sacrifice which had an unused potential for defilement. A sexually mature female has a regular cycle of impurity which a heifer has not yet activated. The death of the heifer before she has become defiled is a symbol of the voluntary sinlessness of our L-rd.

(4) **Why burn everything** (Num.19:5)? Both aspects of the heifer are being offered – its sinlessness and its sinful potential. The sin must be paid for and the defilement must be cleansed. At Passover as well, the lamb was to be cooked with its innards but they were not eaten. The Passover lamb was a protection against death and not a payment for sin, the Red Heifer was a release from defilement and not a payment for sin. When an animal was offered to atone for individual sin, it had to eaten, so that the forgiveness could be internalized. The Heifer had to be burned so that the cleansing could be complete.

Our L-rd's death on the cross simultaneously performs all three functions: atonement for our sins, protection from death, and cleansing from defilement.

(5) **Why add cedar wood, hyssop and crimson [wool]** (Num. 19:6)? (see also Lev.14:4 - Leprosy is a rotting disease of the flesh; sin is a rotting disease of the spirit).

The sin offering fixes the person's problem, the atonement ashes fix the problem person.

Cedar is a wood which resists infection, either by molds or by insects. **Hyssop** was a disinfectant used to cleanse infections. **Scarlet [wool]** is a symbol of blood in which there is neither infection nor sin.

When you put all three together, you have a symbolic reference which could be applied to the cross: His crimson blood was shed sinless on the cross to cleanse us from sin.

(6) **Why are they unclean and only until evening** (Num. 19:7, 8, 10)? Once you use cleanser to wash away the dirt, you have to wash the cleanser off your hands. In a very real sense, your hands are dirty when they have cleanser on them, but not in the same way as someone who has dirt on their hands. The person who was being cleansed had to be washed – a seven day process. The person doing the cleansing had to wash the cleanser – a single day process.

(7) **Why must the ashes be keep in a clean place** (Num. 19:9)? If you keep your cleansers in a dirty place, then when you use them to cleanse, you run the risk of further contamination, instead of complete atonement. Unless we regularly cleanse ourselves spiritually, we risk transferring our spiritual contamination to others.

Conclusion:

The blood of the Heifer was offered only once; its ashes were used repeatedly. When we come to the L-rd for forgiveness, since He is both the Lamb of G-d and Adam's Cow, He does two things three ways. He not only fixes a people's problems, He fixes problem people by (1) applying the forgiveness for our sins (2) removing the sentence of death from us and (3) by cleansing us from all our defilement, as the Bible says:

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (I John 1:9)

Let's pray.