

On August 28, 2018, a historic event occurred in Israel—the birth of a red heifer. According to Jewish Temple authorities, such an occurrence had not happened in over 2,000 years, since the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD. Historically, only nine red heifers were ever sacrificed from the time of Moses until the destruction of the Temple, and these sacrifices were essential for ritual purification (Numbers 19:2-10, ESV).

The Red Heifer in the Old Testament

God gave Moses a very specific command concerning the red heifer. It had to be a female cow, entirely red, without any blemish or defect, and crucially, it must never have been yoked or used for labor (Numbers 19:2, ESV):

“This is the ordinance of the law that the Lord has commanded: Tell the people of Israel to bring you a red heifer without blemish, in which there is no defect and on which a yoke has never come.”

The red heifer was to be slaughtered outside the camp, and its ashes mixed with pure water. This mixture was then sprinkled on those who had become ceremonially unclean, particularly through contact with the dead (Numbers 19:11-19). The ritual cleansing allowed the Israelites to re-enter the sanctuary, emphasizing the holiness required to approach God. Disobedience to this command carried the death penalty.

This purification process symbolized the removal of sin and uncleanness, and it was unique because the red heifer itself became unclean in the process—foreshadowing the perfect sacrifice who takes on the sins of others.

The New Testament Fulfillment: Jesus Christ as the Perfect Sacrifice

In Christian theology, the red heifer is a profound type of Jesus Christ—the ultimate, perfect sacrifice. Hebrews 9:13-14 (ESV) draws this connection explicitly:

“For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, 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?"

Jesus Christ is the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29, ESV). Unlike the red heifer, which was a temporary purification for the flesh, Jesus’ sacrifice cleanses our consciences and grants eternal purification. He was without spot or blemish, both physically and spiritually, fulfilling the perfect standard (1 Peter 1:19, ESV).

The red color of the heifer foreshadows the blood of Christ, which established the New Covenant through His sacrificial death (Matthew 26:28, ESV). Revelation 19:11-13 (ESV) describes His triumphant return:

“Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war... He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.”

Why is the Birth of a Red Heifer Significant Today?

The recent birth of a red heifer in Israel has stirred significant interest because the Jewish people are actively preparing for the rebuilding of the Third Temple. According to Jewish tradition, the Temple cannot be rebuilt until a perfect red heifer is found to perform the necessary purification rites.

For Christians, this event is also a powerful sign of the times—reminding us of God’s faithfulness and the nearness of Christ’s return. The Apostle Paul warned that before Jesus returns, a great tribulation and the rise of the Antichrist will occur (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, ESV). Many interpret the appearance of the red heifer as a step toward these prophetic events.

A Call to Choose

This moment calls for personal reflection. While the Jewish people await their Messiah, Christians recognize that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of these ancient symbols—the perfect sacrifice who cleanses us from sin.

The time is short. Scripture urges us to repent and accept Jesus Christ now (Acts 3:19, ESV):

“Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out...”

If you have not yet been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, as Acts 2:38 (ESV) commands, now is the time:

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”

Receive the Holy Spirit, who empowers believers to live in truth and prepares us for the coming Kingdom (John 14:26, ESV).

Without the Holy Spirit, there is no true understanding or readiness for the coming Kingdom and the rapture.

What are you waiting for?

May the Lord bless.

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