

June 27, 2017

## Restored to Purity

Dear Saints,

The Torah portion for this week found in **Numbers 19:1 - 22:1** includes decrees on actions necessary to be restored to purity after contacting the realm of death. I want you to notice that this does not always involve an act of sin, but rather results from living on this earth since the fall of mankind. God shows us His attitude concerning the defilement of death, and His requirement for purification and restoration. In this world, there is the realm of life, the Kingdom of God and Light and there is the realm of death, or the kingdom of darkness.

*Numbers 19:11 He that toucheth the dead body of any man shall be unclean seven days.*

*Numbers 19:12 He shall purify himself with it on the third day, and on the seventh day he shall be clean: but if he purify not himself the third day, then the seventh day he shall not be clean.*

*Numbers 19:13 Whosoever toucheth the dead body of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, defileth the tabernacle of the LORD; and that soul shall be cut off from Israel: because the water of separation was not sprinkled upon him, he shall be unclean; his uncleanness is yet upon him.*

The command from God that life and death are not to mingle is indicated in the first chapter of the book of Genesis, and lays the foundation for all that is good and all that is evil.

*Genesis 1:4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.*

Now, you may ask, "What does that have to do with life and death?" We find the answer to that question by searching the Scriptures. Notice how the following verses indicate the relationship of light and darkness to life and death, and good and evil.

*John 1:4 In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.*

*Psalms 119:105 Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*

*Psalms 107:14 He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder.*

*Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

*Matthew 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

*John 3:20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.*

*John 3:21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*

We can see from these, and many other references in Scripture that YHWH always indicates that light is good and leads to life, while darkness is related to evil, and therefore, death. If we go back to the beginning, we hear the LORD establishing eternal, spiritual truth about light and darkness, and commanding that there should be no mingling between light and darkness, good and evil, and life and death.

We have noted, however, that we live in a world damaged by sin and filled with its results, the final outcome of which is death. Therefore, to live in this world, we are confronted with the realm of death on every side, but the good news for us is that our Father has made a way to be restored to purity when contact is made with death. Although the passage in Numbers 19:11 - 13 refers directly to contact with corpses, we can understand through meditation of the Word that death is present in all that violates and contradicts the Word of God. Certainly, every act of sin carries the recompense of death, but, in addition, inadvertent contact with that realm through living in this fallen world, causes an uncleanness that requires cleansing to restore purity.

The prescribed method found in the Bible for cleansing is the water of purification provided by sprinkling the ashes of the red heifer in water found in Numbers 19:1 - 10. Notice that this heifer is a sacrificial animal whose blood is sprinkled, and whose body is burned to ashes to provide purification and restoration to ritual cleanness for those who have become ritually unclean by contact with the realm of death. Certainly, this blood sacrifice and accompanying ordinance for purification, as with all shedding of sacrificial blood, points to the better covenant in Yeshua HaMashiach and His shed blood.

*Hebrews 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and **the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:***

*Hebrews 9:14 **How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?***

*Romans 8:2 **For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.***

As you read through scripture and meditate, looking for understanding, revelation, and hidden truth, notice how the foundational truth of light and darkness is found throughout the written Word, and recognize that YHWH, Who never changes is still providing us a way of purification that His restoration to being completely enveloped in the Realm of Life is accomplished through faith in the shed blood of Yeshua and washing in His Living Word.

*Ephesians 5:25 **Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it;***

*Ephesians 5:26 **That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word,***

*Ephesians 5:27 **That He might present it to Himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.***

*Psalms 24:3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in His holy place?*

*Psalms 24:4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.*

*Psalms 24:5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*

*1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.*

*1 John 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in Him purifieth himself, even as He is pure.*

*Colossians 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son:*

As we hear and develop understanding in this marvelous provision of God and recognize His desire for our cleansing, let's determine to make use of all that He has provided by trusting in the blood of the Son of God and purify ourselves by taking heed according to His Word.

**NOTICE: our Thursday evening study is cancelled for the remainder of the summer until further notice.**

Washed in His blood and His Word,  
Terry