

BRETHERN AND SISTERS just a few thoughts on the BIBLE CLASS subject.

You may have noticed that the title I have used is different from the one on the plan. This is because these two themes are essentially linked. The water of separation is the finished product of the red heifer process.

It ultimately does the cleansing. However, without the steps to it, such cleansing would not be possible. Let's look at the red heifer. This animal was needed to make clean. Like other animals which were used in the sacrificial process certain requirements were necessary.

- 1) Without spot
- 2) no blemish
- 3) upon which no yoke came.

However it was female not male. It was to be slain WITHOUT THE CAMP before his face (Aaron / the high priest). The priest Eleazar took of its blood with his finger and sprinkled it seven times before the tabernacle. Its body, all elements of it good and bad was to be burned before the high priest. The term used is "in his sight" - that is the high priest's sight. When this burning takes place, certain extra items were added to the flames. These are listed as

- 1) cedar wood
- 2) hyssop
- 3) scarlet

The text says they were cast into the burning of the heifer. Burning involves fire which has a connection to warfare. Once burnt the ashes are gathered taken without the camp in a clean place and kept for the use for the congregation of the children of Israel for a water of

separation. Given the number of them and the need to be kept, or made to be clean the ashes would need to be constantly resupplied. This supply would be provided by God. He would gender the appearance of the red heifers needed. Cleanliness was a constant part of the process to bring about the ashes required. The priests involved had to wash their clothes and bathe themselves in water. As such it was essential that obedient compliance to what was instructed/ required was a key element of the whole process. Ephesians 4: by every part of the whole body of believers if one failed all failed. The process would have to be repeated. This illustrates that the law was a shadow of things to come namely:

THE PERFECT OFFERING which is Jesus Christ.

The water of separation also prefigures the action of baptism which all true believers need to undertake. Again, Jesus showed the way as he was baptised by John the Baptist without the camp in the river Jordan which in turn symbolises the entrance into the Promised Land. As a final consideration, fire is indicative of war that of the things of the flesh against the things of the spirit Romans 8. Where Romans 7 shows as triumphing through the person of Christ we fail. Jesus has not. Fire also is used as a description of God. Namely God is a consuming fire in the process thereof all the works of the flesh and spirit are. One is totally destroyed, the other is everlasting - a pleasant savour/ scent in God's estimation.

Brother Michael