



Mt. Pleasant Bible Institute

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matt 28:19)

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Survey Of The Bible I

Genesis-Deuteronomy



Num 19-21

The Ritual Of The Red Heifer (19:2-9)

1. A red heifer, without spot or blemish, and upon which never came a yoke, was brought to the priest (Eleazar)
 2. The priest took the red heifer and killed it outside the camp
 3. The priest took from the blood of the red heifer and sprinkled it 7x before the tabernacle
 4. A pre-selected person then burned the entire red heifer
 5. The priest took cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet and cast it into the fire of the burning heifer
 6. The priest and the person who burned the heifer washed their clothes and flesh and remained unclean until the evening
 7. Another pre-selected person went and gathered the ashes of the red heifer and placed them in a clean place outside the camp
- The ashes were mixed with water in a vessel and used as a “water of separation” for purification purposes, when someone and/or something became defiled by a dead body (19:11-16)
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Num 19-21

- A person who touched a dead body was unclean for seven days
 - The cleansing ritual entailed a clean person taking hyssop, dipping it into the vessel containing the water of separation, and sprinkling it upon the unclean person on the third and seventh day of his separation; then the unclean person washed his clothes and bathed his flesh, and he was clean at the end of the day (19:18-19)
 - The red heifer (19:2) is a type of CHRIST (1 Pet 1:19) dying for our sins so we can be cleansed from the daily defilement of sin
 - The water of separation (19:9,18-19) is a type of the BLOOD of Christ (Heb 9:13-14), which cleanses us from all our sin (1 John 1:7)
 - The hyssop (19:18) is a type of FAITH, which is how the cleansing agent is applied (1 John 1:9)
 - Those who believe in baptismal regeneration (specifically by sprinkling) use (19:9,13,20) as proof texts
 - Orthodox Jews believe that this water of separation is necessary for purification of any future temple- recent reports indicate that a perfect red heifer is in the possession of those looking to rebuild the temple
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Num 19-21

- **KADESH (20:1)**= the same area where the children of Israel failed in unbelief (13:26), but about 38 years later
 - **WOULD GOD WE HAD DIED (20:3)**= this is the third time the people have said they wish they had died (14:2; Exo 16:3)
 - The people chided with Moses and complained about not having anything to drink before, and the Lord commanded Moses take his rod and **SMITE** the rock so water would come out of it (Exo 17:2-6)- picturing the living water that has been made possible through the smiting of the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 10:4)
 - This time, the Lord commanded Moses to take his rod and **SPEAK** to the rock so water would come out of it (20:8)- pictures the fact that, the living water is available to all who ask for it (Luke 11:13; John 7:38-39); there is no need for Christ to be smitten a second time (Rom 6:9-10)
 - Moses lost his temper and did something he would always regret- he **SMOTE** (20:10-11) when he should only have **SPOKE** (20:8); his actions gave the false impression that the rock must always be smitten in order to get water
 - Because of their unbelief (20:12) and rebellion (20:24) against the word, Moses and Aaron were not allowed to bring the children of Israel into the land (20:12)
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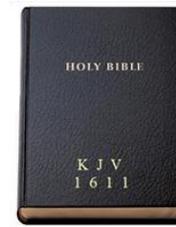




Num 19-21

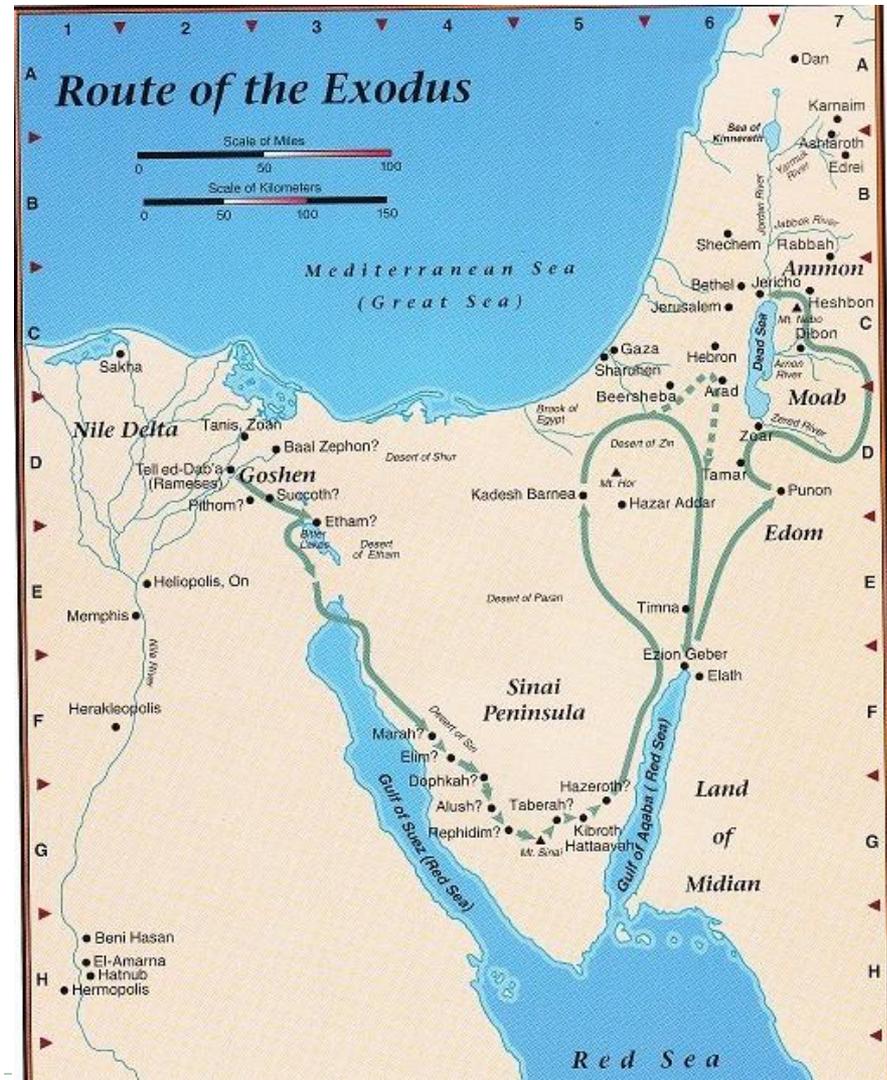
- THE KING'S HIGHWAY (20:17)= an important trade and caravan route from Ezion-Geber (near the Red Sea), through Edom and Trans-Jordan (Moab and Ammon), to Damascus (21:22)- comparable to an “interstate” highway today
 - This route is associated with the Second Coming of Christ (Amo 1:3-2:3)
 - By telling Edom they would pass through their country on the king's highway, Israel was committing to be open and observable the entire time, but Edom refused (20:17-18)
 - The Lord had also commanded Israel not to meddle with Edom and to offer to buy any meat or water from them (20:19; Deu 2:5-6), but Edom still refused and came out with a show of force (20:20-21) cf. (Amo 1:11)
 - Ironically, Edom is the location of the “rock city” of Petra, where many Jews will flee for refuge in the Tribulation (Psa 60:9; Isa 63:1; Dan 11:41; Rev 12:6,14)
 - We do not know how the children of Israel SAW that Aaron was dead, but when they did, they mourned for him for 30 days (30= the # of MOURNING) cf. (Gen 50:3; Deu 34:8)
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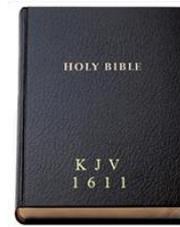




Num 19-21

- King Arad and the Canaanites were undoubtedly emboldened to initiate war with Israel (21:1) due to their previous victory cf. (14:45)
- Instead of PRESUMING to go into battle this time, Israel PRAYS and is victorious (21:2)
- In order to go around Edom, Israel had to backtrack towards the Red Sea (Gulf of Aqaba), since this was the opposite direction of the Promised Land, it discouraged the people (21:4)
- Discouragement can lead to blaming God and speaking against him (21:5)





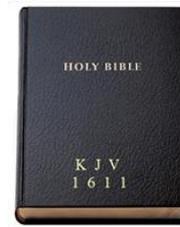
Num 19-21

- FIERY= Heb. *saraph*= “burning; poisonous”; the same word is transliterated as SERAPHIMS (Isa 6:2,6)
- The poisonous serpents sent by the Lord to kill many people for their backbiting is the SEVENTH of eight instances of fatalities recorded in Numbers (11:1,33; 14:37; 15:36; 16:32-35,49; 21:6; 25:9)
- The people pray for immediate REMOVAL of the serpents (a type of SIN), but the Lord provides a REMEDY (21:7-9)

Typology Of The Brazen Serpent On The Pole

1. SERPENT= typifies SIN, so this serpent typifies Christ bearing our SINS in his own body and becoming SIN for us (Psa 22:6; 1 Pet 2:24; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13)
2. BRASS= typifies JUDGMENT, so this brass serpent typifies Christ bearing the JUDGMENT for our sins as he became sin for us (Isa 53:10-11; Matt 27:46)
3. POLE= what the brass serpent was put upon so it could be lifted up and beheld by the people, so this pole typifies the CROSS upon which Jesus was lifted up (John 3:14) as he bore our sins and their judgment

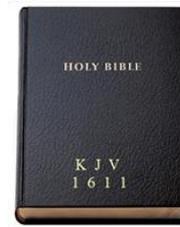




Num 19-21

- All the people were told that if they looked upon the serpent of brass, they would live; those who believed and gave the look of faith indeed lived (21:8-9)
 - Similarly, those who give the look of faith to Calvary and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, shall NOT PERISH but have EVERLASTING LIFE (John 3:15-16) cf. (Isa 45:22)
 - This serpent of brass would become an idolatrous relic worshipped by the children of Israel for almost 800 years (2 Kin 18:4) just like Roman Catholics have worshipped crucifixes for over 1000 years
 - The journey from Mount HOR (20:23), where Aaron died (20:28), to Mount PISGAH (21:20), where Moses died (Deu 34:1,5), includes nine different locations (21:10-20)
 - The Lord had commanded Israel not to meddle with the children of Esau (Edom) (Deu 2:5) or the children of Lot (Moab and Ammon) (Deu 2:9,19) because the Lord was not going to give their land to the children of Israel
 - Sihon king of the Amorites and Og king of Bashan, who had conquered part of Moab (21:26) and dwelt between the Moabites and Ammonites, were NOT exempted from conquest
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Num 19-21

- Whereas Edom came out against Israel with a show of force, Sihon and the Amorites came out and attacked Israel (21:23)- Israel DEFEATED and DISPOSSESSED the Amorites (21:24-25)
 - First appearance of CHEMOSH (21:29)= the Moabite version of MOLECH cf. (Lev 18:21)
 - Og king of Bashan also came out and attacked Israel, and was DEFEATED and DISPOSSESSED (21:33-35)
 - The Lord told the people not to fear Og (21:34) because he was a GIANT (Deu 3:11) and they had allowed fear to replace faith before due to giants (13:33)
 - What the children of Israel did to Og and HIS SONS (21:35) is exactly what they would have done to the SONS OF ANAK (13:33) if they had trusted the Lord and allowed faith to replace fear
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