

TORAH TEACHINGS



Understanding YAH's Likes and dislikes

**#39 Chukkat (חֻקֵּי) – Hebrew for
a “decree”, “Law” or “ordinance” that’s
beyond human understanding.**



**Torah: Numbers 19:1 - 22:1
Haftarah: Judges 11:1 - 33**

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

#39 Chukkat (חֻקַּת) – Hebrew for a “decree”,
“Law” or “ordinance” that’s
beyond human understanding.

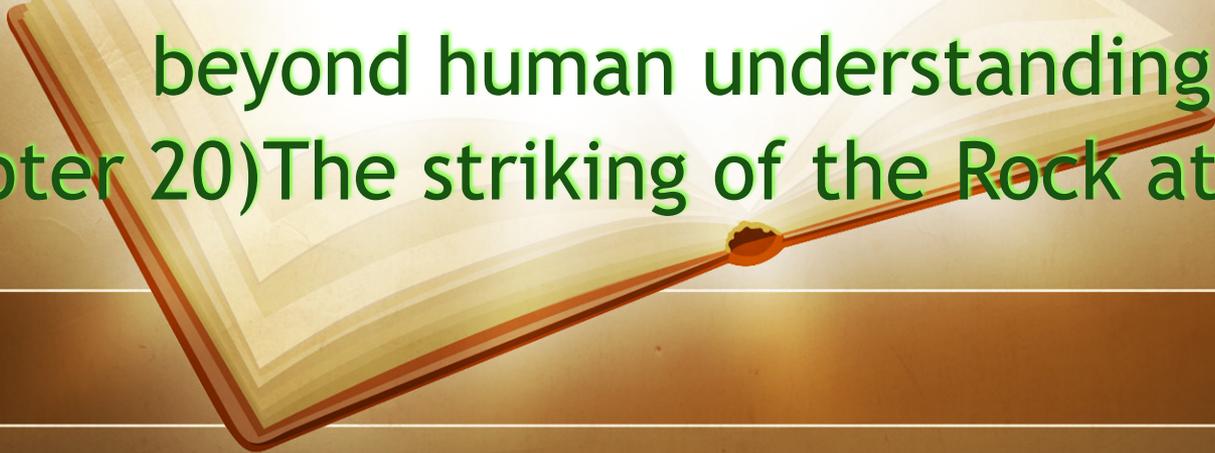
Chapter 19) The mysterious Red Heifer sacrifice

TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

#39 Chukkat (חֻקֹּת) – Hebrew for a “decree”,
“Law” or “ordinance” that’s
beyond human understanding.

Chapter 20) The striking of the Rock at Meribah

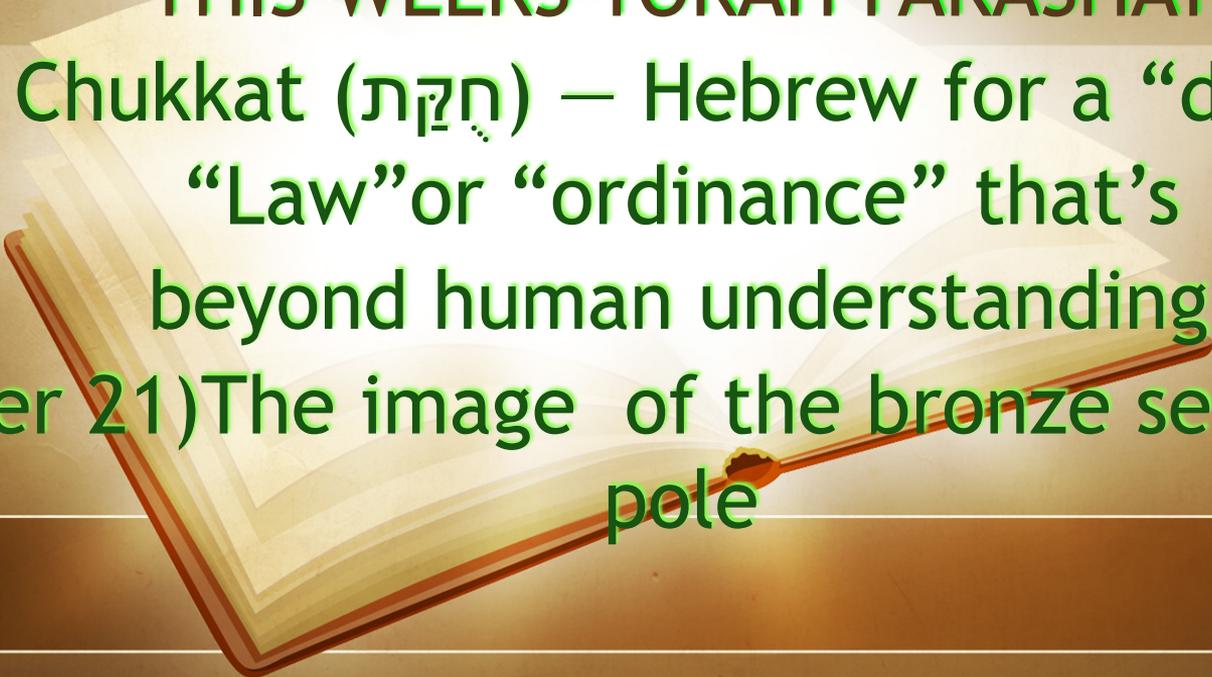


TOPICS IN THE PARSHA

THIS WEEKS TORAH PARASHAT

#39 Chukkat (חֻקַּת) – Hebrew for a “decree”,
“Law” or “ordinance” that’s
beyond human understanding.

Chapter 21) The image of the bronze serpent on a
pole



פֶּרֶשׁ

PARSHA HUKKAT

חֻקֹּת

"Eternal Decree"

613
MITVOT

CHUKKIM - Not Obvious or Rational

- Red Heifer, Speaking to a Rock, Looking at serpent
- } Requires Faith

EIDOT - ^AWitness / Symbolically Forshadowing

- Shabbats / Holy Days
- Tzitzit

MISHPATIM - Obvious / Logical & Rational

- Charity
 - No theft or Murder, etc.
- } Doesn't require Faith

This is the 'חֻקֵּי הַתּוֹרָה huqqah of the Torah' - that is to say, that without the red heifer there can be no fulfilment and understanding of the Torah and without the red heifer there can be no service in the Tabernacle and without the red heifer there can be no cleansing, and without cleansing there can be no deliverance!!!

It is through a proper understanding of this 'law of the Torah', that we can gain a more powerful understanding of the deliverance that our Master has brought us, fulfilling the complete 'law of the Torah'!

The red heifer had to be a perfect one!

The red heifer had to be a perfect one, with no blemish and on which there had never been a yoke.

The Hebrew root word that is used here for 'perfect' is תָּמִיִּם tamiym - Strong's H8549 which means, 'complete, whole, sound, perfect, without blemish, blameless', and comes from the primitive root word תָּמַם tamam - Strong's H8552 meaning, 'to be complete, to be finished, be at an end'.

Now, when we see the requirements for this red heifer to be 'tamiym', we see just how יהושע, our High Priest met the requirements, in being a blameless, prefect and complete sacrifice without defect:

Ib'rim/Hebrews 7:26 "For it was fitting that we should have such a High Priest - kind, innocent, undefiled, having been separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens,"

Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 1:19 "but with the precious blood of Messiah, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless"

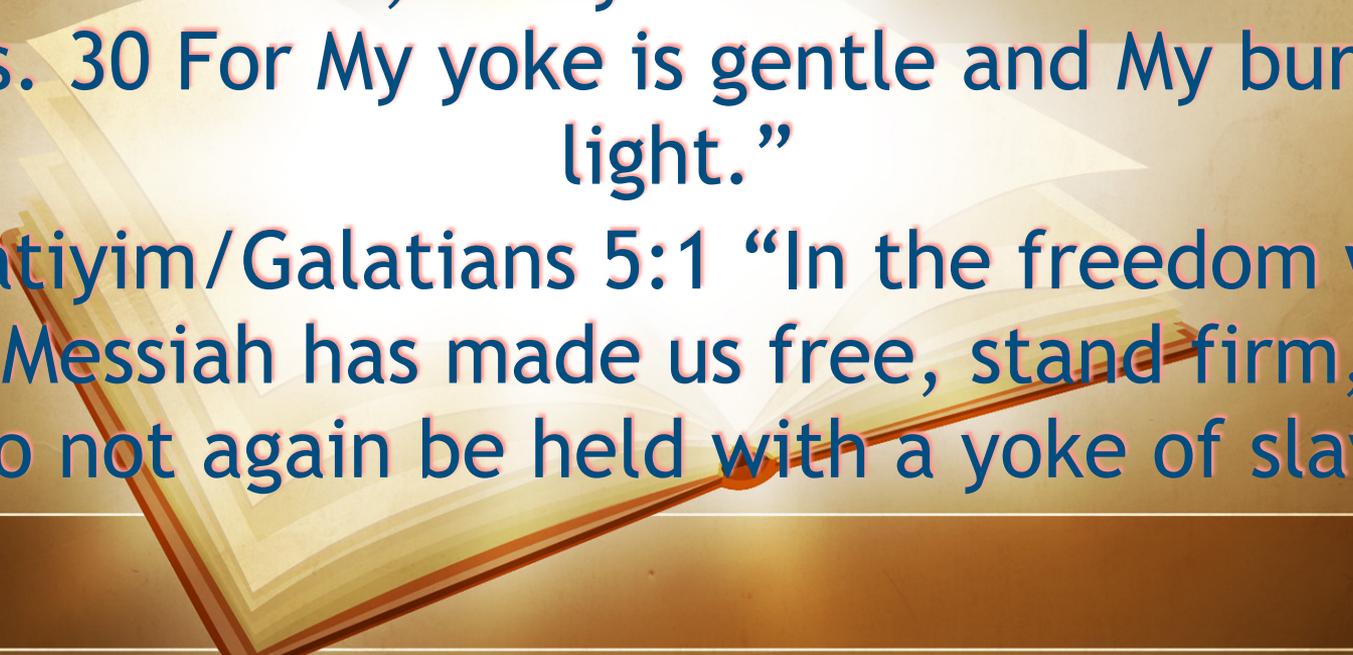
was without sin or defect and He was utterly unique and on which there had never come a yoke!

A yoke was usually a wooden bar and frame with straps, used on animals for plowing and pulling loads, and so the red heifer was never to have been 'worked'.

The term 'yoke', in the Scriptures, is often used metaphorically in speaking of that which men are led by, either by their own choice or by enslavement and so, it speaks of being 'driven' in a direction of the one who owned the 'yoke' that was placed upon you.

We were all under the 'yoke' of sin and bondage and Messiah who had never been under any 'yoke' came as a perfect sacrifice to break the yoke of bondage over us in order to set us free and be enabled to take His yoke and be led in victory and peace.

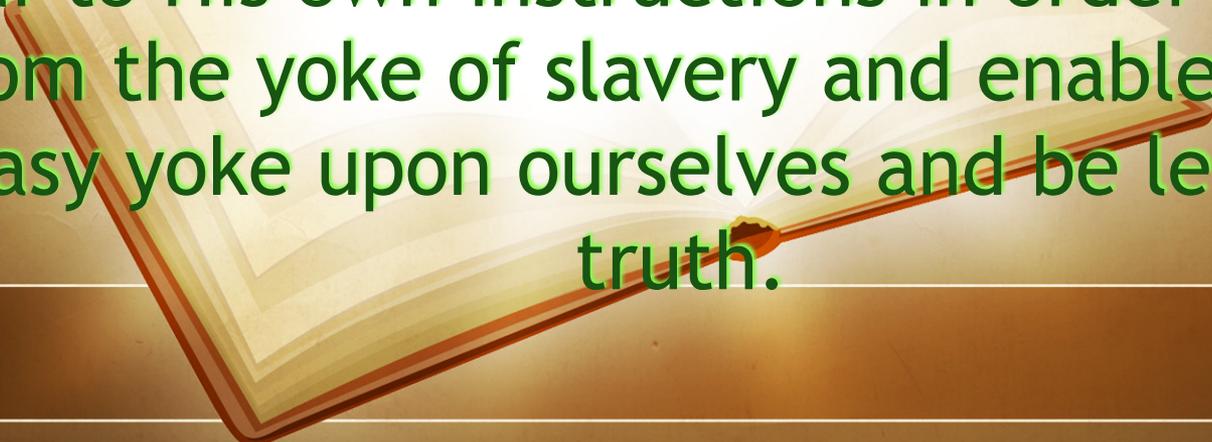
Wayyiqra/Leviticus 26:13 "I am יהוה your Elohim, who brought you out of the land of Mitsrayim, from being their slaves. And I have broken the bars of your yoke and made you walk upright."



Mattithyahu/Matthew 11:29-30 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble in heart, and you shall find rest for your beings. 30 For My yoke is gentle and My burden is light.”

Galatiyim/Galatians 5:1 “In the freedom with which Messiah has made us free, stand firm, then, and do not again be held with a yoke of slavery.”

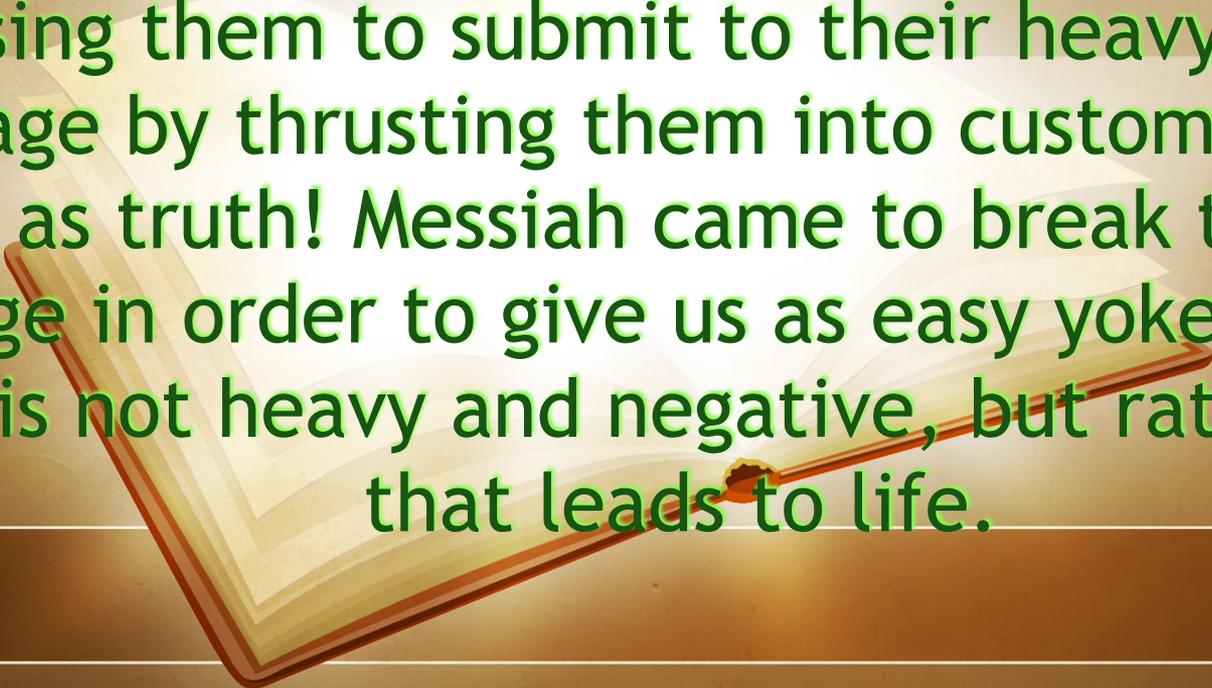
When we understand the clear instruction given, that the red heifer must be one that has never had a yoke, we take note that Messiah never had a yoke as He is the One who leads and gives the instructions, and in humility he Himself subjected Himself to His own instructions in order to redeem us from the yoke of slavery and enabled to take His easy yoke upon ourselves and be led forth in truth.



The Hebrew word for 'yoke' is עַל ol (ool) - Strong's H5923 and comes from the primitive root verb עָלָל alal - Strong's H5953 which means, '*to insert, thrust in*', and this word speaks of relationships.

It is used to indicate the exercise of power over another person, generally in a bad sense, hence meaning "to maltreat."

Many 'yokes of traditions' have been thrust upon people as the twisted and vain dogmas of man have exercised power over the masses causing them to submit to their heavy yoke of bondage by thrusting them into customs that are taught as truth! Messiah came to break the yoke of bondage in order to give us an easy yoke - His yoke - that is not heavy and negative, but rather a yoke that leads to life.



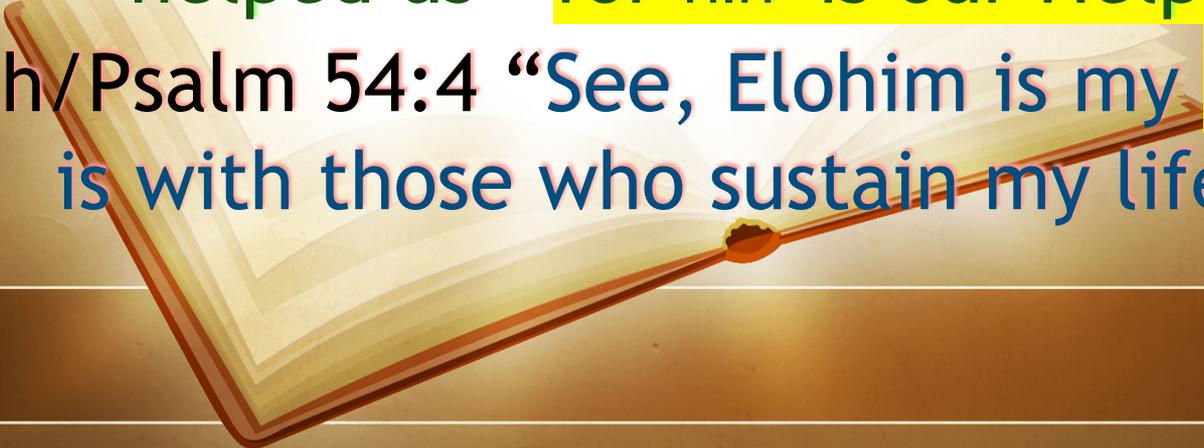
The red heifer was to be given to El'azar the priest, who would bring it outside the camp and it would be slain before him.

The name El'azar - אֶלְעָזָר - Strong's H499 means, '*El has helped/assisted*' which comes from the two words:

- 1) אֵל ĕl - Strong's H410 meaning '*mighty, power or mighty one*' and is also used as a title of יהוה, and
- 2) עֶזֶר azar - Strong's H5826 which means, '*help, relief, aid, support*'.

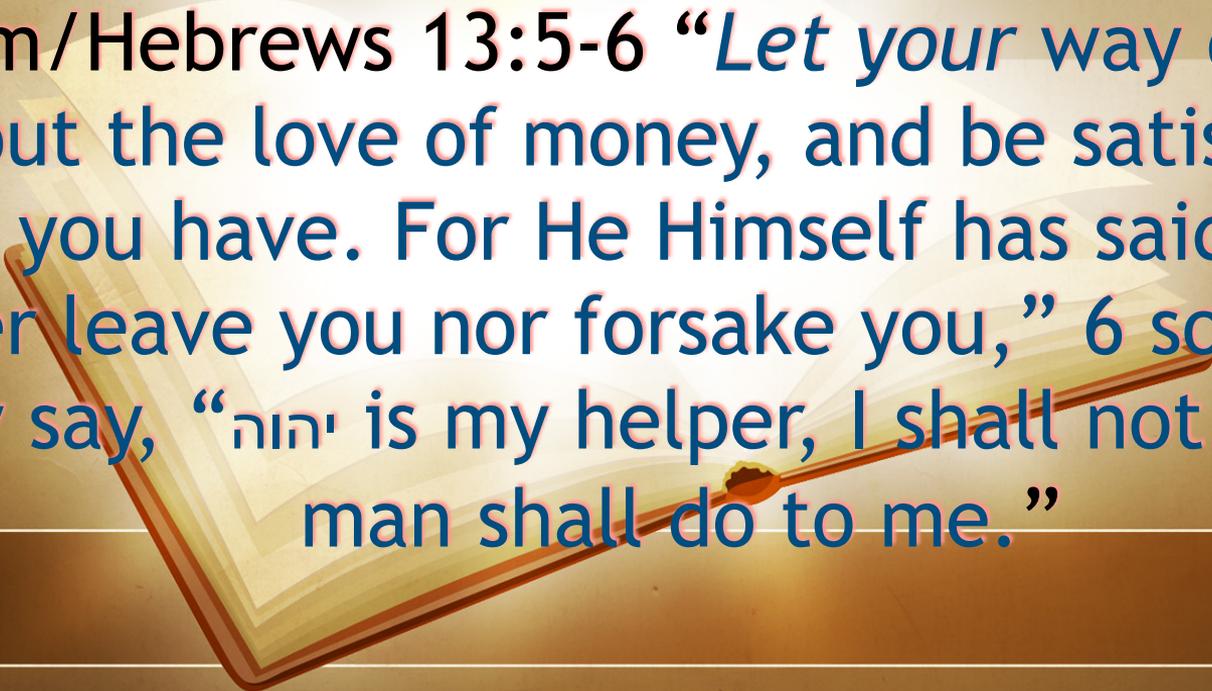
He was the son of Aharon who was to take over as high priest. What we recognise here is the powerful shadow picture of Messiah, our High Priest, is the One Elohim and Master who has helped us - for יהוה is our Help!

Tehillah/Psalm 54:4 “See, Elohim is my helper; יהוה is with those who sustain my life.”



The Hebrew root word that is used here, in this Tehillah, for 'helper' is עֲזָרָה azar - Strong's H5826 which means, '**help, relief, aid, support**'.

Ib'rim/Hebrews 13:5-6 "*Let your way of life be without the love of money, and be satisfied with what you have. For He Himself has said, "I shall never leave you nor forsake you,"* 6 so that we boldly say, "יהוה is my helper, I shall not fear what man shall do to me."



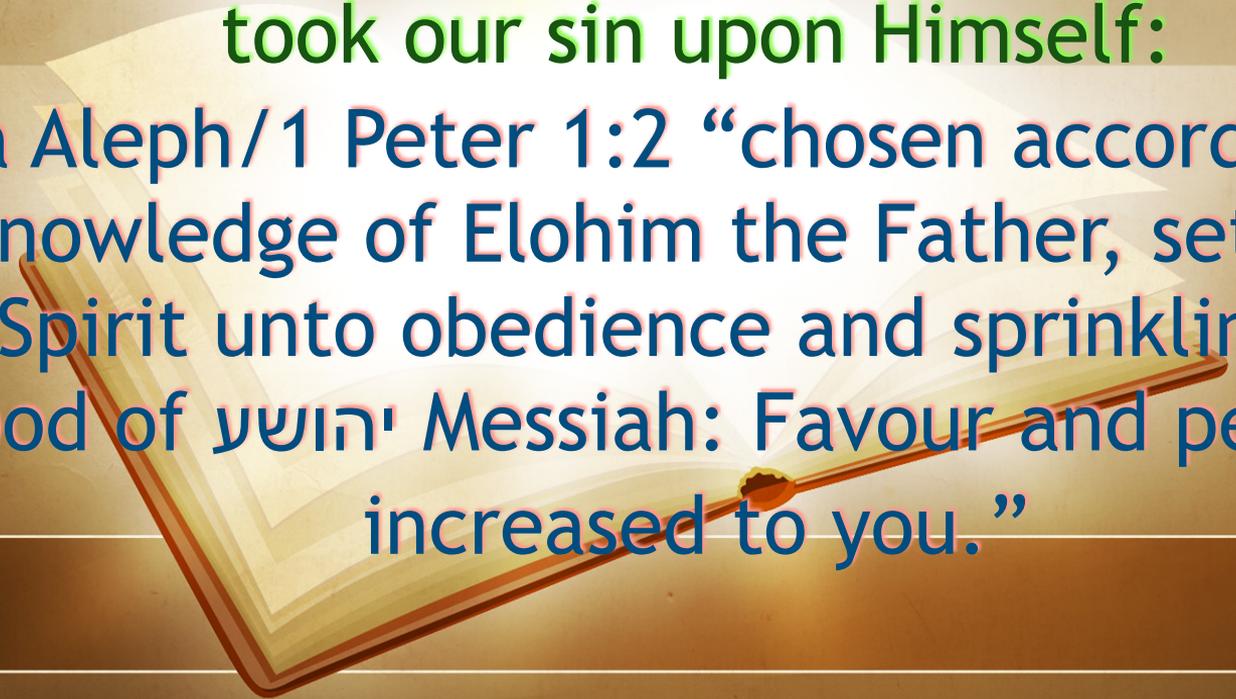
When we look at the process of this red heifer sacrifice, we notice that the one offering the sacrifice became unclean while the one who was sprinkled with the blood was cleansed! This is a wonderful shadow picture of the perfect work of Messiah, who being without sin became sin for us and cleansed us by the sprinkling of His Blood!

Qorintiyim Bět/2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of Elohim.”

This is a perfect illustration and clear evidence of
His sacrificial love for us!

His Sprinkling of His Blood makes us clean while He
took our sin upon Himself:

Kěpha Aleph/1 Peter 1:2 “chosen according to the
foreknowledge of Elohim the Father, set apart by
the Spirit unto obedience and sprinkling of the
blood of יהושע Messiah: Favour and peace be
increased to you.”



Ib'rim/Hebrews 12:24 “and to יהושע the Mediator of a new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling which speaks better than the blood of Hebel.”

His ‘blood of sprinkling’ speaks better than the ‘blood of Hebel’ because, by His Blood, He has satisfied the punishment for sin. Hebel’s blood cried out from the earth for his murder and we praise יהוה for hearing that cry and satisfying the punishment of sin through His Own Blood that cleanses and restores.

Hazon/Revelation 1:5 “and from יהושע Messiah,
the trustworthy witness, the first-born from the
dead, and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth.
To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins
in His own blood.”

Hebel’s blood crying out could not satisfy as he too
was born under the yoke on sin and his blood could
never satisfy the redemption price, while Elohim,
by His Own Blood, paid the price that speaks
better than that of Hebel!

By the Blood of Elohim, He purchased back for Himself a people who had been sold under slavery to sin!!!:

Ma'asei/Acts 20:28 “Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Set-apart Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the assembly of Elohim which He has purchased with His own blood.”

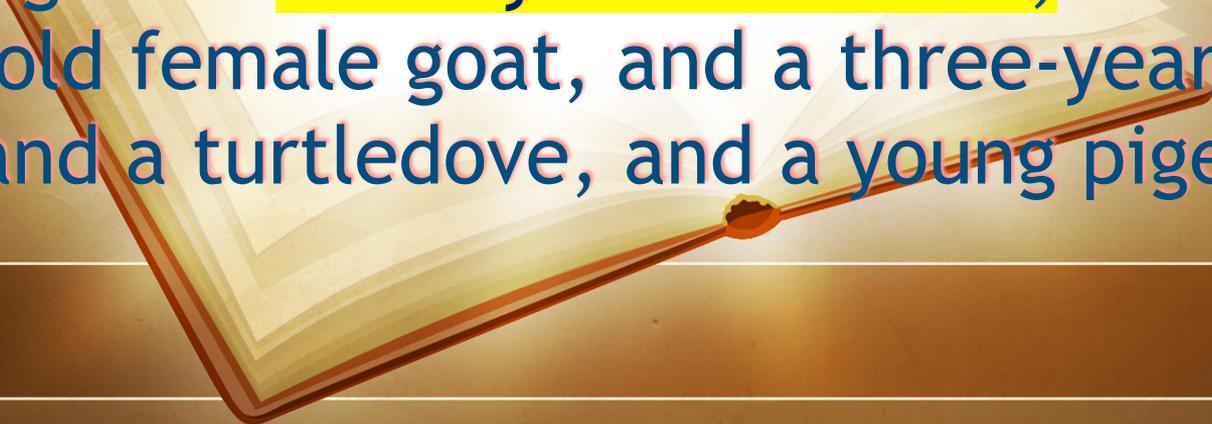
The heifer was to be a 3-year-old indicating that it was to be an adult, a picture of maturity and not being too young.

We identify that יהושע was clearly eligible and mature in being the perfect sacrifice, when in His 30th year He was of age to fulfil His Priestly role and not be too young, but was of the age of service in the priesthood, as 30 was the age whereby the priests were able to enter the service in the Tent of Appointment:

Bemidbar/Numbers 4:3 “from thirty years old and above, even to fifty years old, all who enter the service to do the work in the Tent of Meeting.”

We also take note that the first animal that Abraham was told to bring, when יהוה made Covenant with him, was a 3-year-old heifer!

Berēshith/Genesis 15:9 “And He said to him, “Bring Me a three-year-old heifer, and a three-year-old female goat, and a three-year-old ram, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”



The Hebrew word that is used here for 'heifer' is עֵגְלָה *eglah* - Strong's H5697 which also has the meaning of, '*cow, heifer*', and while it is not the same word used for 'red heifer', what is worth taking note of is the call for a 3-year-old heifer being brought to make covenant! We know that the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin but only served as a covering and pointing to the only blood that can cleanse, hence the heifer being brought by Abraham was not a perfect one, as the covenant being made would be fully perfected, renewed and made complete by the blood of Messiah, the perfect One!

The picture of the perfect red heifer is a clear shadow picture for us of the perfect work of our Messiah who satisfies and secures the covenant in His Blood, so that we may be cleansed and our consciences sprinkled with His Blood!

Leviticus/Hebrews 9:11-15 “But Messiah, having become a High Priest of the coming good matters, through the greater and more perfect Tent not made with hands, that is, not of this creation, entered into the Most Set-apart Place once for all, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood, having obtained everlasting redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the defiled, sets apart for the cleansing of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of the Messiah, who through the everlasting Spirit offered Himself unblemished to Elohim, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living Elohim? 15 And because of this He is the Mediator of a renewed covenant, so that, death having taken place for redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called might receive the promise of the everlasting inheritance.”

Everything was burned - outside the camp!

What we see in this red heifer sacrifice is that everything was burned - all its hide, flesh, blood and dung, apart from the 7 sprinklings of blood toward the front of the Tent of Appointment! Usually the blood of the sacrifices was poured out next to the slaughter place, and here the blood is burned up with the rest!

This is a complete and whole sacrifice and pictures for us a great deal as it clearly shadow pictures the fullness of the work of Messiah.

This sacrifice was to be done outside the camp and shadow pictures how יהושע was taken outside:

Ib'rim/Hebrews 13:12-13 “And so יהושע also suffered outside the gate, to set apart the people with His own blood. 13 Let us, then, go to Him outside the camp, bearing His reproach.”

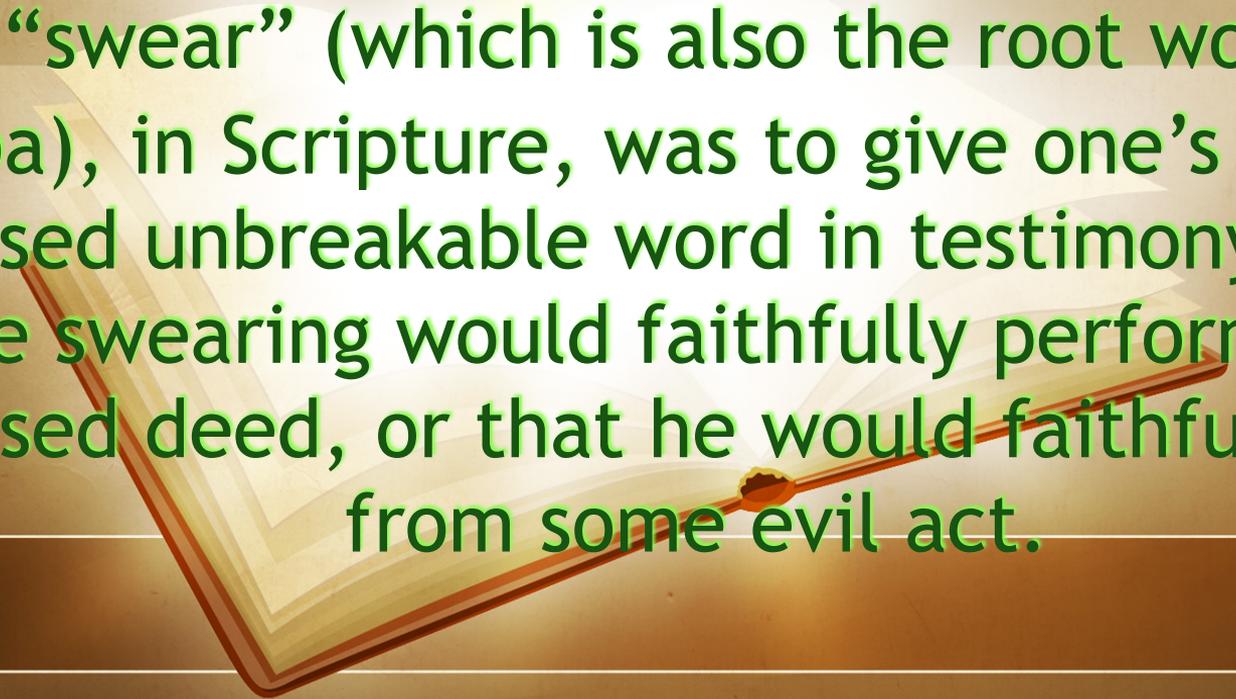
With the sprinkling of its blood, 7 times toward the front of the Tent of Appointment, we are able to firmly grasp the clear picture of this sacrifice pointing us to יהושע Messiah, who is The Door.

This sprinkling of the blood seven times pictures for us the completion of the Feasts/Appointed Times of Elohim which fully proclaim the full and complete work of Messiah, who cleanses His Bride through the washing of the Word by His Blood!

In Hebrew, the number “7” is associated with the understanding of ‘**completion**’, especially with regards to fulfilling an oath, as the word for “7” in Hebrew is שֶׁבַע **sheba** - Strong’s H7651 and it is from this word that we get the word for ‘oath’ - שָׁבַע **shaba** - Strong’s H7650 meaning, *‘to swear, exchange oaths, take an oath, vow’*.

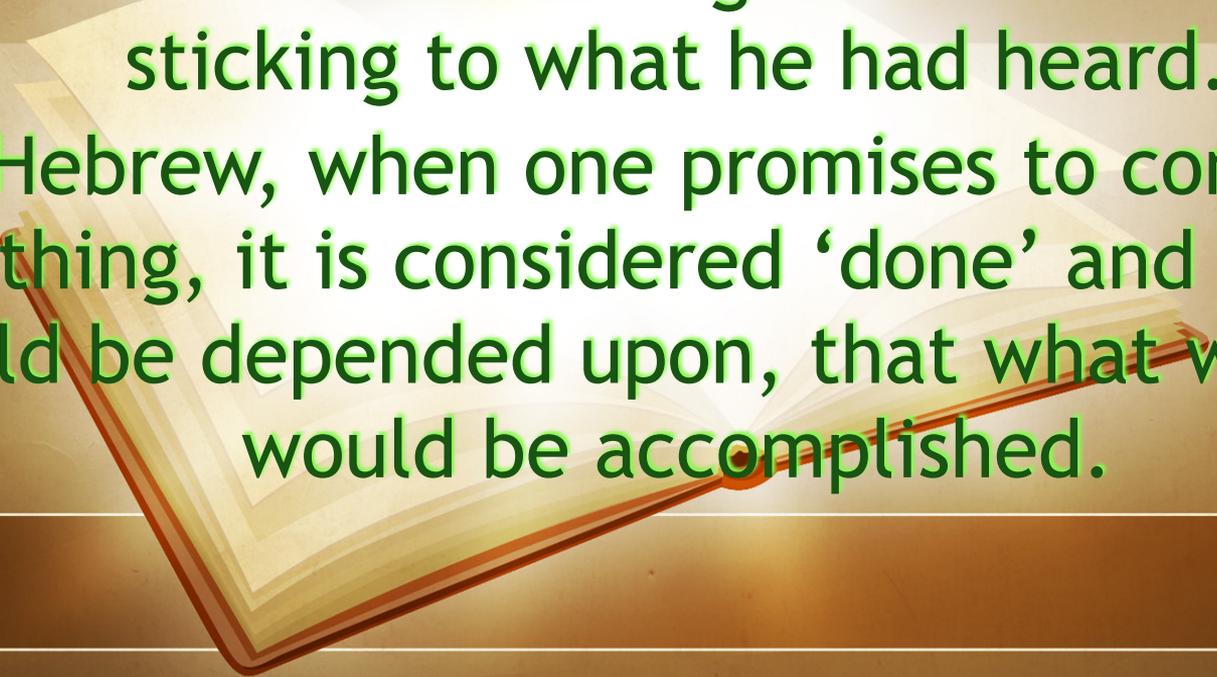
An 'oath' is typically an obligation taken upon yourself rather than that which is imposed upon you.

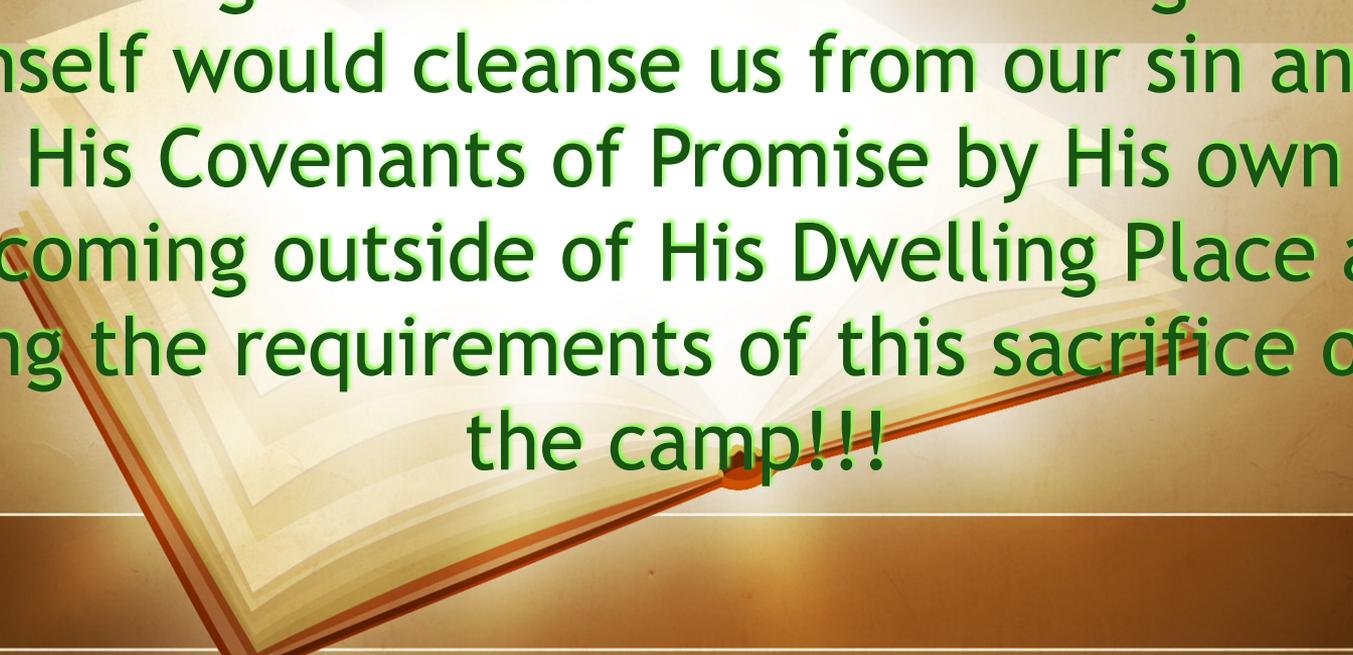
To "swear" (which is also the root word שָׁבַע *shaba*), in Scripture, was to give one's sure and promised unbreakable word in testimony, that the one swearing would faithfully perform some promised deed, or that he would faithfully refrain from some evil act.



Occasionally, we see in Scripture that one 'swore' that he freely acknowledged a truth and would continue to acknowledge it in the future by sticking to what he had heard.

In Hebrew, when one promises to complete something, it is considered 'done' and the word could be depended upon, that what was said would be accomplished.





What we see very clearly through this red heifer sacrifice is the firm assurance of the Word of Elohim being established in confirming to us that He Himself would cleanse us from our sin and graft us into His Covenants of Promise by His own blood, by coming outside of His Dwelling Place and meeting the requirements of this sacrifice outside the camp!!!

Hyssop, Scarlet and Cedar - burned up too!

Along with the whole burning of the Red Heifer we see that the priest was to also take hyssop, scarlet and cedar wood and throw them into the midst of the fire burning the heifer; and what we must take careful note of here is that all of these items were items that were used in the process of cleansing from sin or skin diseases!

This burning of everything together is a clear picture of the burning away of leaven and speaks of Pěsaḥ/Passover in getting rid of the leaven!

took our sin away on a wooden stake (pole) - picture through the cedar wood, while the cedar wood also pictures for us the door posts and lintel upon which the blood of the lamb was to be applied.

The blood was to be applied using hyssop:

Shemoth/Exodus 12:22 “And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin, and you, none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.”

Hyssop, scarlet and cedar wood was also used in the process of the cleansing of a leper, as described in Wayyiqra/Leviticus 14:4,6,49,51,52, and so, this reminds us of the total cleansing that the sacrifice of יהושע brings for us, through Him fulfilling the requirements of the red Heifer sacrifice.

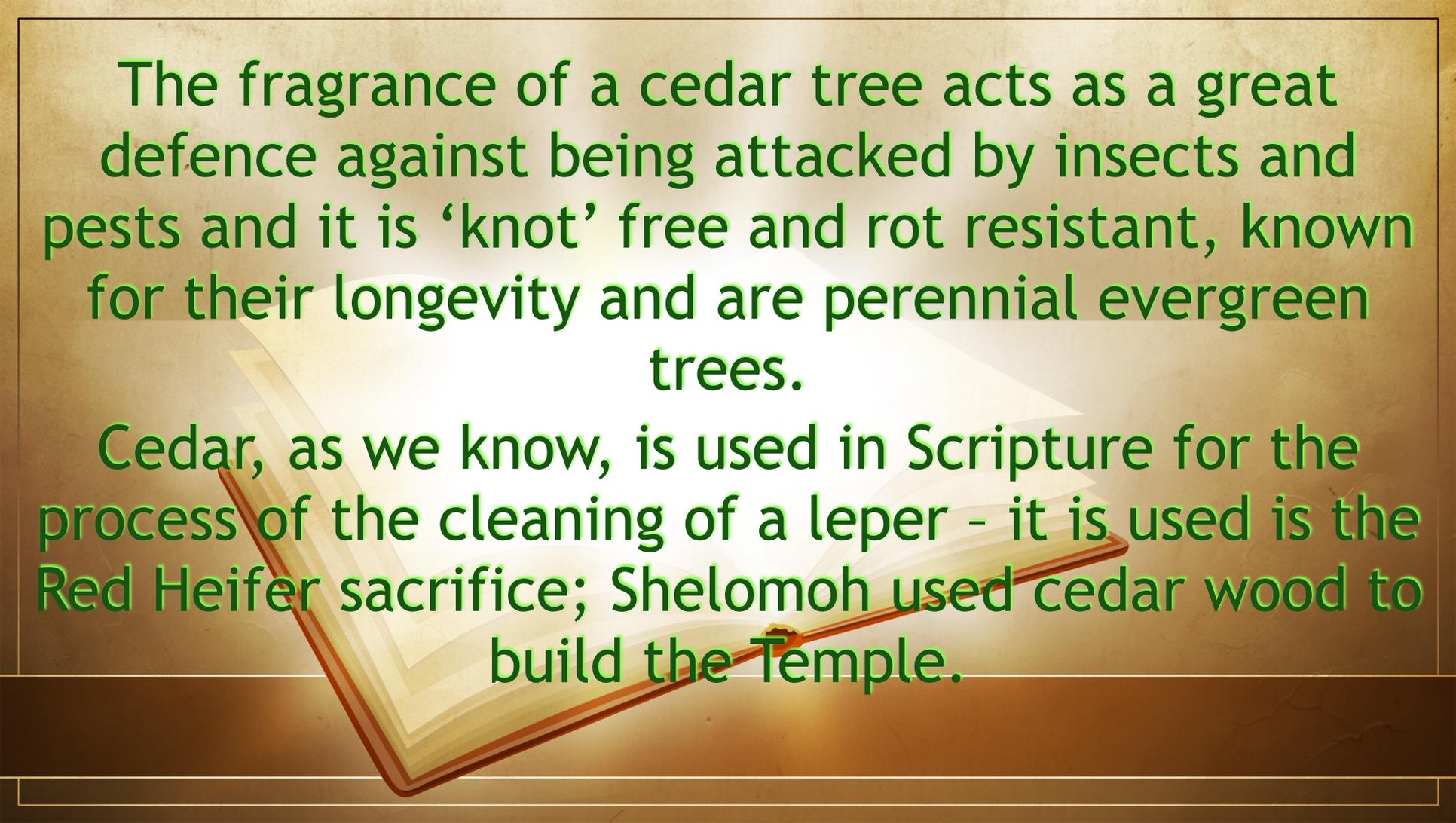
The Hebrew word for cedar is אֶרֶז **erez** - Strong's H730 which comes from the primitive root אָרַז **araz** - Strong's H729 that means, '***firm, strong***'.

In Tehillah/Psalm 92 Dawid tells us that the righteous will grow like the cedars of Lebanon.

The Cedar is a strong and firm tree and a cedar tree is in itself a wonderful illustration of bringing us a picture of a person who is טוב (good) and fully functional in Messiah.

They have been known to grow up to 12 meters in circumference!

The roots grow down extremely deep and wrap around rocks for anchorage, and grow upwards in heights of up to 45 meters!!!

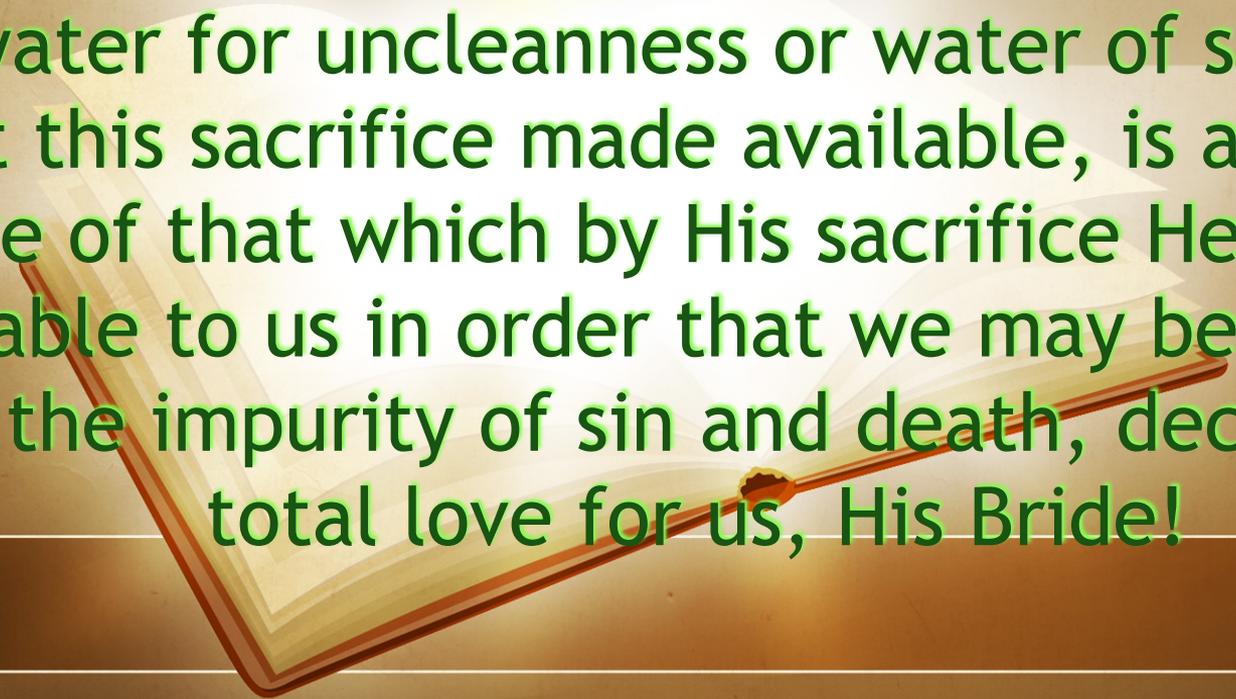


The fragrance of a cedar tree acts as a great defence against being attacked by insects and pests and it is 'knot' free and rot resistant, known for their longevity and are perennial evergreen trees.

Cedar, as we know, is used in Scripture for the process of the cleaning of a leper - it is used in the Red Heifer sacrifice; Shelomoh used cedar wood to build the Temple.

The cedar speaks of us being strong and trustworthy in Messiah and being the fragrance of Messiah, which to some will be death and to others life. It also speaks of trusting in יהוה and obeying the command of יהושע Messiah to not worry!

The cedar also represents for us 'storing up treasure in heaven where moth and rust do not destroy' and so as we do the good works prepared in advance for us, we repel the need to store up the fleshly desires that are like pests that cause rot!



It was the ashes of this sacrifice - the ashes of all the components burnt together - that was kept for the water for uncleanness for the cleansing of sin! This water for uncleanness or water of separation, that this sacrifice made available, is a shadow picture of that which by His sacrifice He has made available to us in order that we may be cleansed from the impurity of sin and death, declaring His total love for us, His Bride!

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 5:25-26 "Husbands, love your wives, as Messiah also did love the assembly and gave Himself for it, 26 in order to set it apart and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word"

Ib'rim/Hebrews 10:22 "let us draw near with a true heart in completeness of belief, having our hearts sprinkled from a wicked conscience and our bodies washed with clean water."

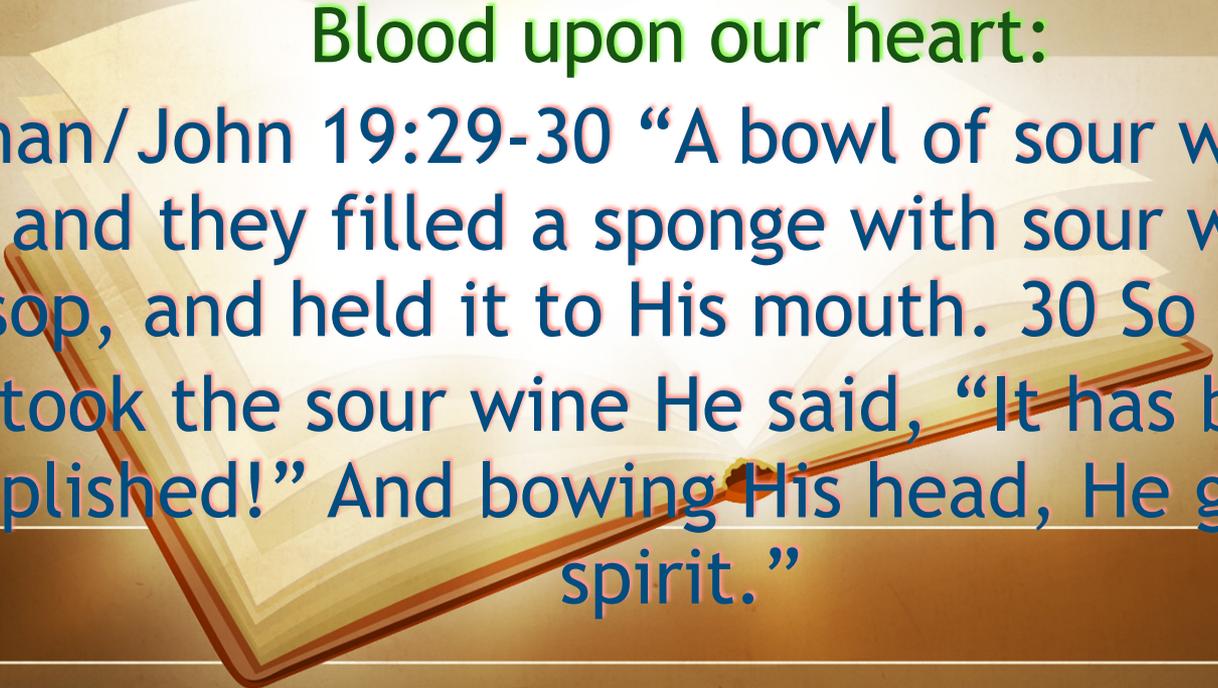
We also see in this sacrifice the picture of the total cleansing work that Messiah brings by His Blood to His whole body, which was also foreshadowed by how Mosheh cleansed the Tent and the people using the elements that would be used in the red heifer sacrifice:

Ib'rim/Hebrews 9:19-22 “For when, according to Torah, every command had been spoken by Mosheh to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, “This is the blood of the covenant which Elohim commanded you.” 21 And in the same way he sprinkled with blood both the Tent and all the vessels of the service, 22 And, according to the Torah, almost all is cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”

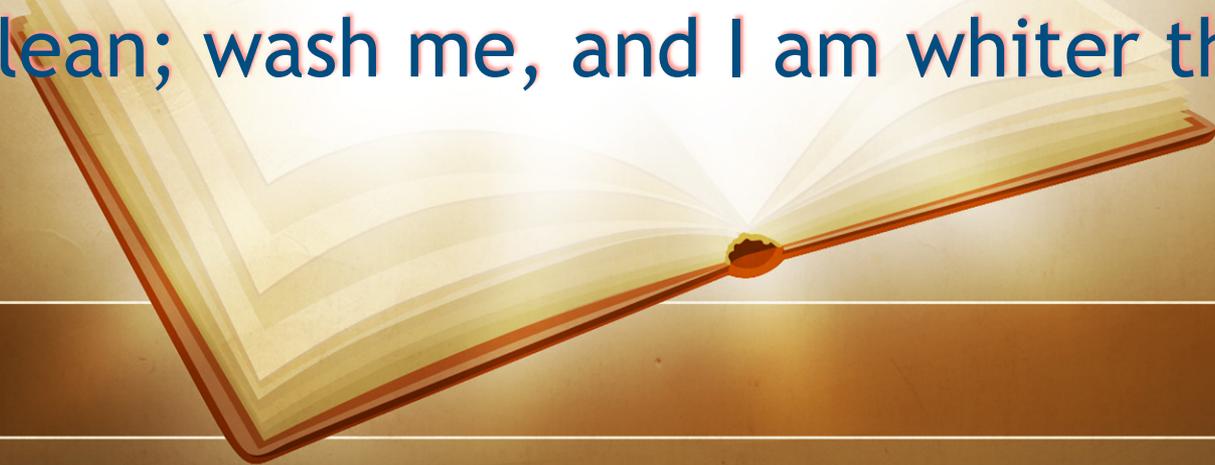
The sacrifice of Messiah as pictured through the red heifer sacrifice is a complete cleansing of His people!

The use of the hyssop plant was a prophetic picture of the impaling of Messiah and the 'application' of His Blood upon our heart:

Yohanan/John 19:29-30 "A bowl of sour wine stood there, and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and held it to His mouth. 30 So when יהושע took the sour wine He said, "It has been accomplished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."



Dawid also used the term 'hyssop', as a picture of cleansing and forgiveness by the Blood of Messiah:
Tehillah/Psalm 51:7 "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I am clean; wash me, and I am whiter than snow."



The 2 doorposts that were to be struck with the blood using hyssop can also represent the 2 houses of Yisra'ěl - Yehudāh and Yisra'ěl (Ephrayim), being brought together by the Blood of the Lamb - our Messiah!

Shemoth/Exodus 12:22 “And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin, and you, none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning.”

Without the applying of the Blood of Messiah in our lives we have no cleansing and forgiveness!

Hyssop - A woody Eurasian plant (*Hyssopus officinalis*) having spikes of small blue flowers and aromatic leaves used in perfumery and as a condiment.

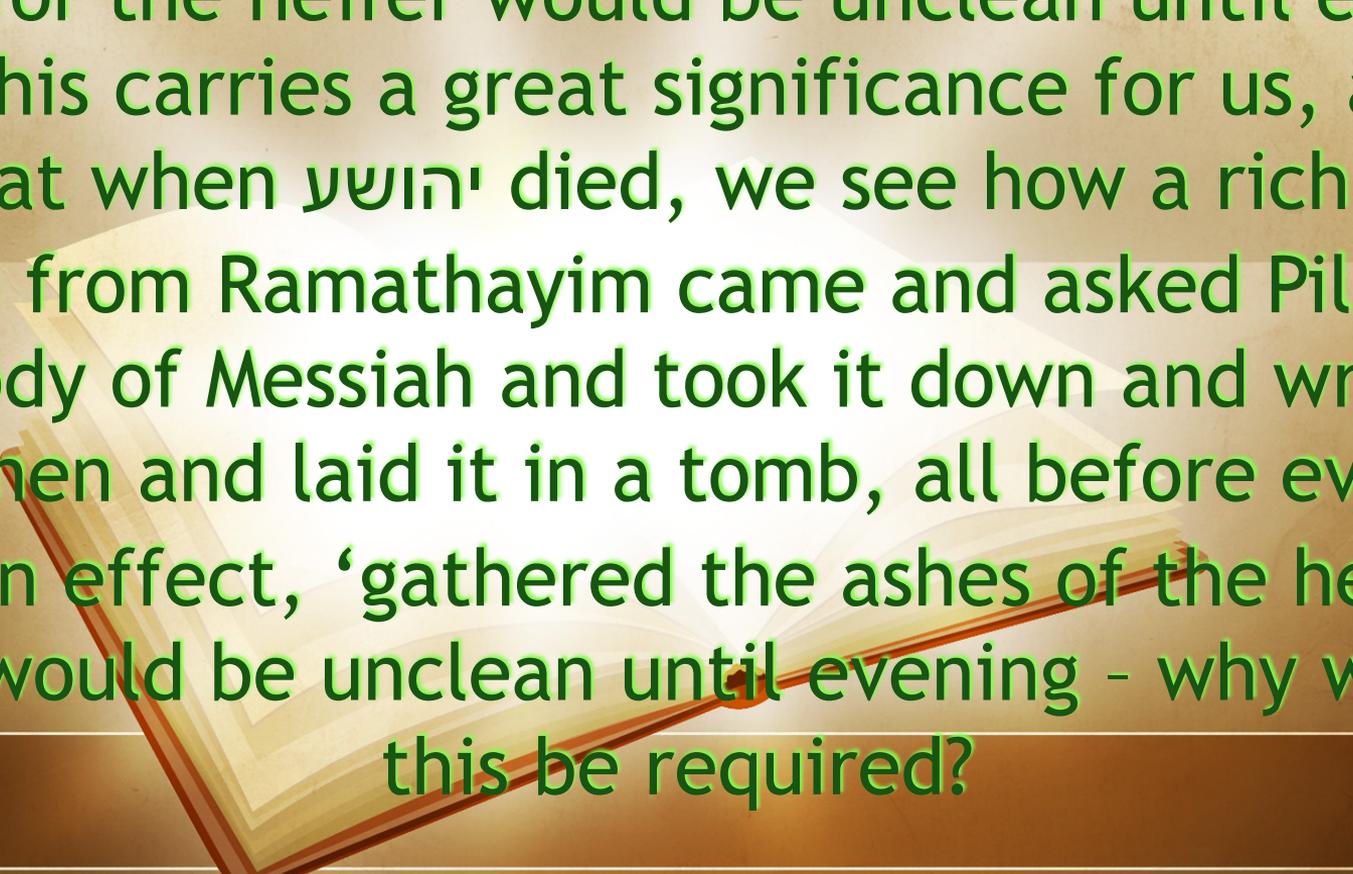
The Hebrew word for hyssop is עִזּוֹב *ezob* - Strong's H231 and hyssop was used for sprinkling in some of the sacrifices and purifications of the Yisra'ēlites.

In consequence of its detergent qualities, or from its being associated with the purification's services, Dawid makes use of the expression, "Purge me with ezob." (Tehillah/Psalm 51:7). It is described in Melakim Aleph/1 Kings 4:33 as growing on or near walls.

1Ki 4:33 And he spoke of trees, from the cedar tree of Lebanon even to the hyssop that springs out of the wall. And he spoke of beasts, and of birds, and of creeping creatures, and of fish.

Besides being thus fit for sprinkling, having cleansing properties and growing on walls, the true hyssop should be a plant common to Mitsrayim, Sinai and Yisra'ěl, and can produce a single stick that is three or four feet long, since on a stalk of hyssop the sponge of vinegar was held up to Messiah on the stake.

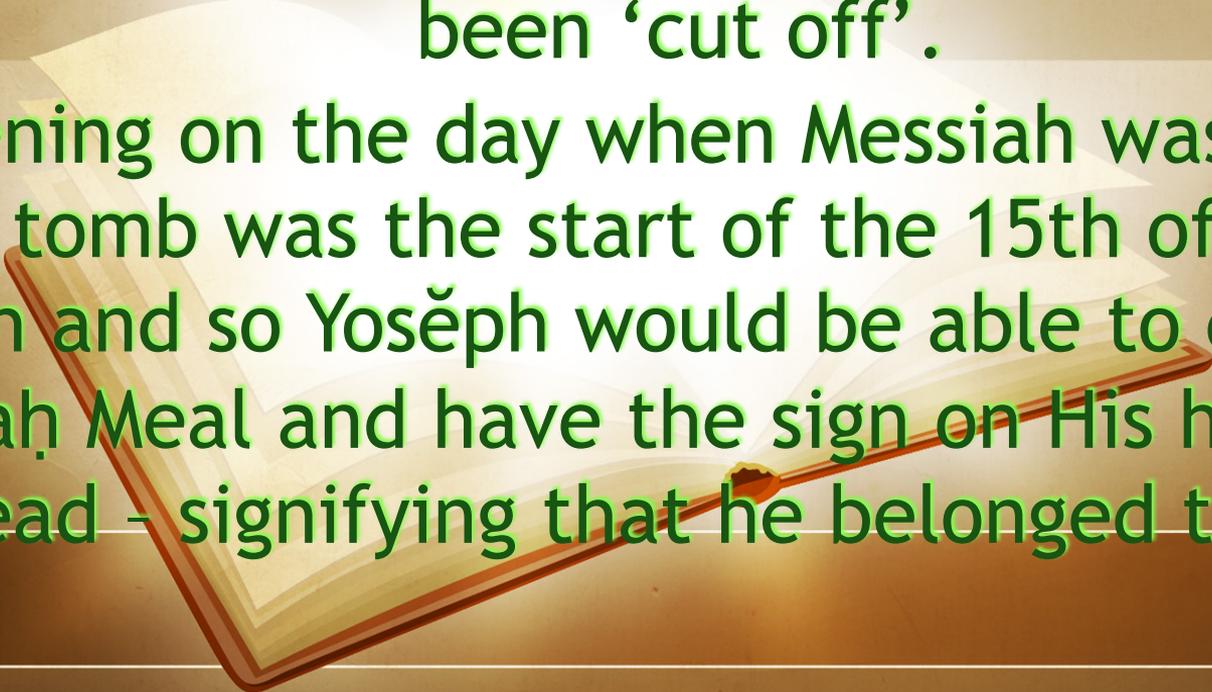
Yoḥanan/John 19:29 “A bowl of sour wine stood there, and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and held it to His mouth.”



Verse 10 - we see that whoever would gather the ashes for the heifer would be unclean until evening and this carries a great significance for us, as we see that when יהושע died, we see how a rich man - Yosēph from Ramathayim came and asked Pilate for the body of Messiah and took it down and wrapped it in linen and laid it in a tomb, all before evening. He, in effect, 'gathered the ashes of the heifer' and would be unclean until evening - why would this be required?

Well, at evening on this specific day - if he was not clean at evening, he would not have been allowed to eat the Pěsaḥ Meal and would have been 'cut off'.

At evening on the day when Messiah was placed in the tomb was the start of the 15th of the 1st month and so Yosěph would be able to eat of the Pěsaḥ Meal and have the sign on His hand and forehead - signifying that he belonged to Messiah!

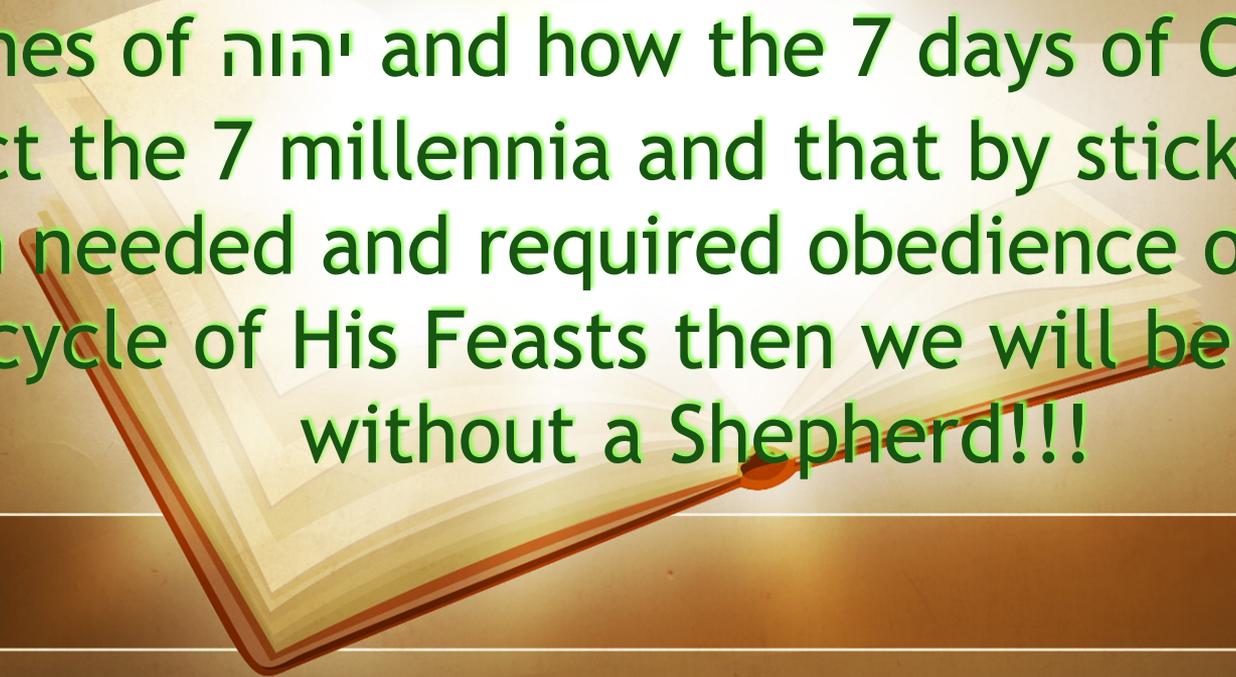


Unclean for 7 days - be cleansed on the 3rd and on the 7th, you are clean!

In verses 11-12 we see some very fitting requirements in regards to becoming clean.

When we see these verses, we must also take note of what Kěpha tells us to make sure we understand:

Kěpha Bet / 2 Peter 3:8 “But, beloved ones, let not this one matter be hidden from you: that with יהוה one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”



Why Kěpha places a huge emphasis on this fact is that if we neglect to understand the Appointed Times of יהוה and how the 7 days of Creation reflect the 7 millennia and that by sticking to the much needed and required obedience of keeping His cycle of His Feasts then we will be lost and without a Shepherd!!!

Anyone who touches the dead is unclean for 7 days - well, since Adam sinned, we have all been 'born in sin', since the uncleanness lasts for 7 days = 7000 years!

It is only in the 8th day (8th Millennium) that we will see a total end to sin and death and a new heaven and new earth be established. In the 7-day period that we now find ourselves in, יהוה through His Torah provided a means for us to become clean.

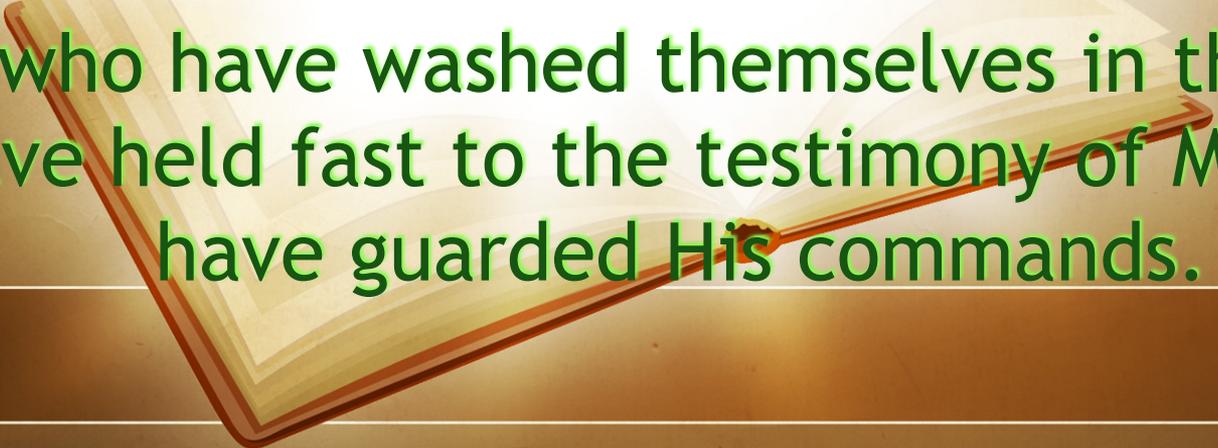
In this torah of being cleansed on the 3rd and 7th day we see the need for us to accept and apply the work of Messiah, who by the fulfilling of the red heifer sacrifice has provided for us the 'water of cleansing'.

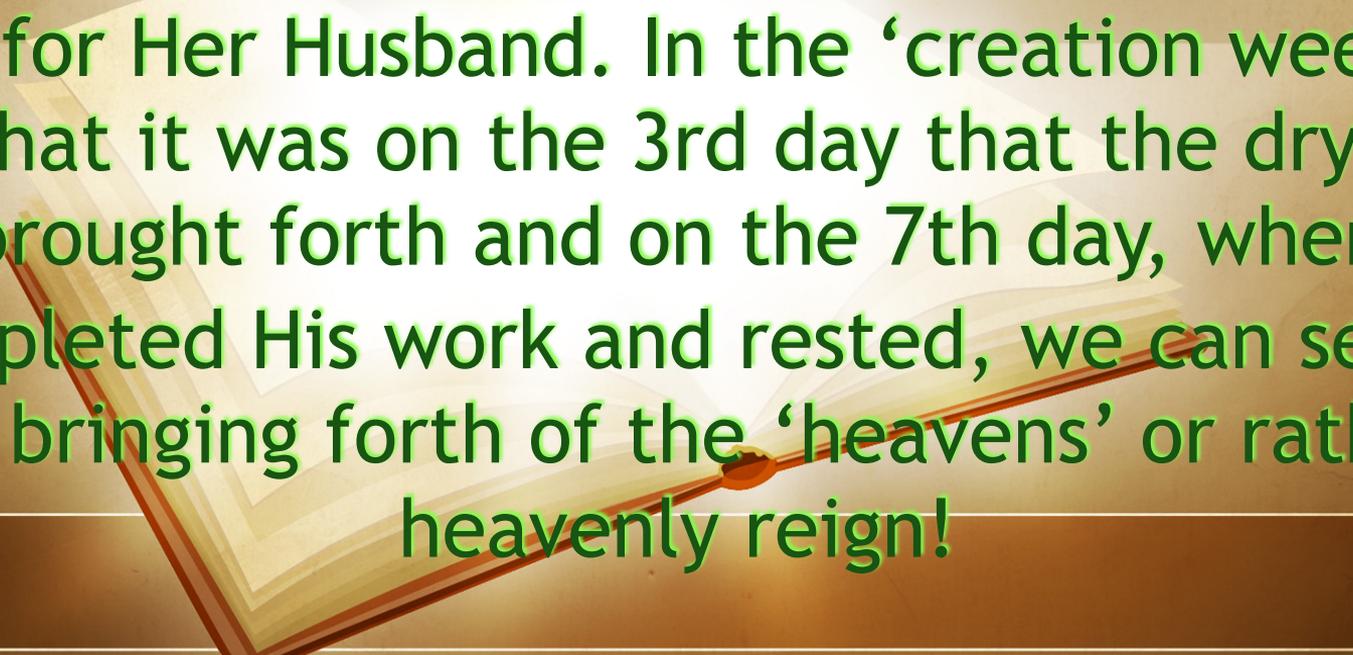
If we are not cleansed by the Blood of יהושע then we will not be able to reign with Him!

The 3rd day - this speaks of the power of the resurrection of Messiah, who rose on the 3rd day, and so in effect to make oneself clean on the 3rd day is to accept the life, death and resurrection for Messiah, repent and be immersed in His Name for the forgiveness of sins.

Hoshĕa/Hosea 6:2 “After two days He shall revive us, on the third day He shall raise us up, so that we live before Him.”

The 7th day speaks of the final work of atonement being completed on the 7th day when Messiah comes out of His Set-Apart Hēkal on Yom Kippur and treads the winepress of His wrath and gathers unto Himself a washed and cleansed Bride - that is those who have washed themselves in the 3rd day and have held fast to the testimony of Messiah and have guarded His commands.



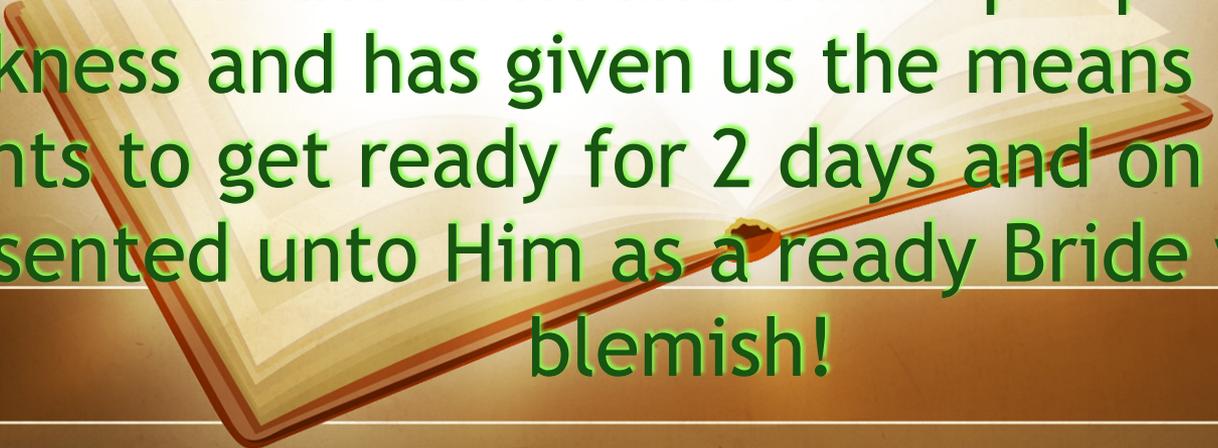


This 3rd day and 7th day principle has varying pictures for us in Scripture which all point to the full and complete work of a Bride being made clean for Her Husband. In the ‘creation week’ we see that it was on the 3rd day that the dry land was brought forth and on the 7th day, when יהוה completed His work and rested, we can see in type a bringing forth of the ‘heavens’ or rather His heavenly reign!

His Kingdom Come - that is that on the 7th day - His rule and reign will be firmly established here on earth, and in the mean time we who live as sojourners here and have been cleansed on the 3rd day, so to speak, by the work of Messiah, choose to live according to His Kingdom rules as set forth in His Torah.

Another aspect to the 3rd day and 7th day cleansing is seen at Mount Sinai when Yisra'el were given to days to get ready and on the 3rd day present themselves at the foot of the Mountain.

When we understand that it was on the 4th day of Creation that the lights were 'made' to rule the day and the night and the Appointed Times were established, we can recognise that יהושע, the Light of the world, came on the 4th day to separate the light from the dark and call a people out of darkness and has given us the means and the garments to get ready for 2 days and on the 3rd be presented unto Him as a ready Bride without blemish!



From the 4th day, when He came, we have been given 2 days - day 5 and day 6 - to get ready and on the 7th be dressed and be ready as a Bride prepared, when He comes down to take up His Bride to be with Him forever!!!

If we do not receive the cleansing of the 3rd day - we cannot be cleansed on the 7th!

Another point to consider, is that in terms of Messiah's resurrection on the 3rd day - we recognise that His resurrection was on the 7th day!!! The 3rd day is the 7th day in a manner of speaking.

Messiah was hung on a pole on the 4th day of the week (wed) and was 3 days and 3 nights in the heart of the earth and rose on the 3rd day - at the end of the Sabbath on the 7th day of the week at sunset (sat).

The Torah of the red heifer has provided for us the necessary means to be clean and stay clean until our Messiah comes again!

Verse 12 tells us that we are to 'cleanse ourselves'.

The Hebrew root word that is used here for 'cleanse' is חָטָא ḥata - Strong's H2398 meaning, 'to miss the mark, do wrong, incur guilt, fail to reach', and when we understand the root meaning of Torah, one clearly sees that to sin is to walk against or contrary to the Torah, for:

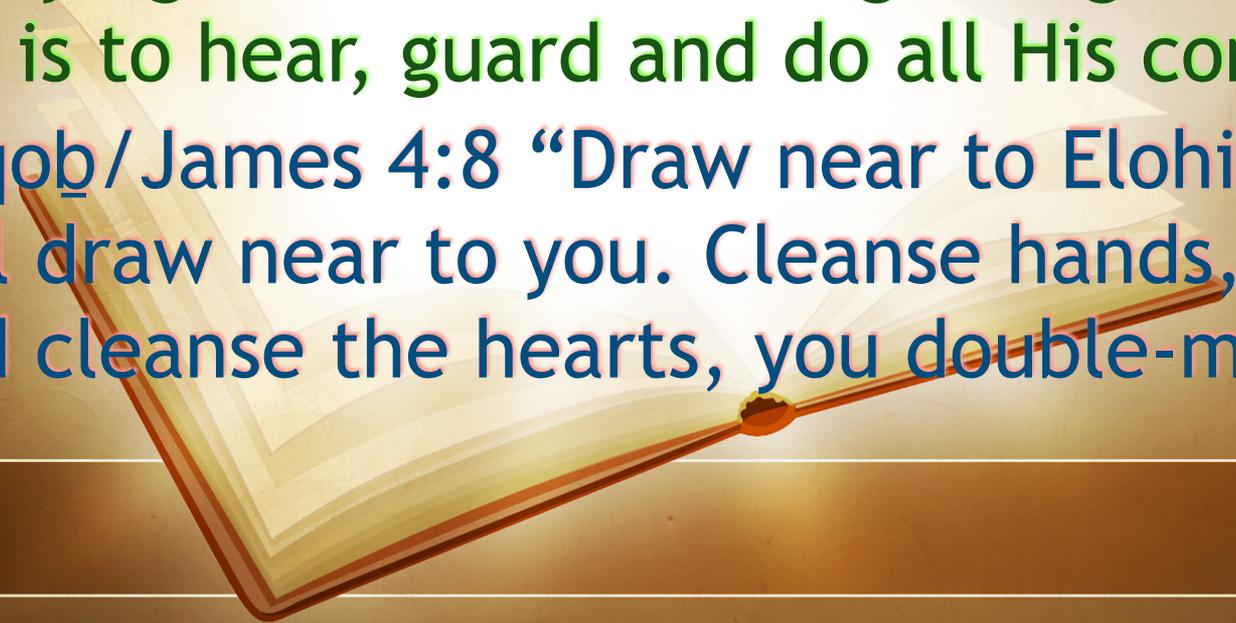
Yohanan Aleph/1 John 3:4 "Everyone doing sin also does lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness."

Now what this play on words in telling us here in Bemidbar/Numbers 19:12 is that we are to be done with sin and to be done with sin means that we choose to walk in His Torah and no longer be lawless!

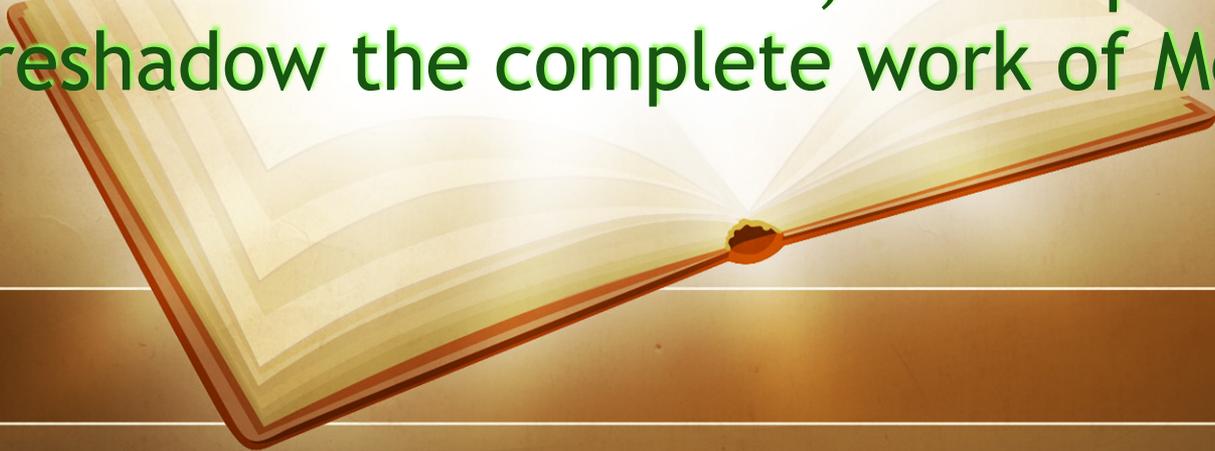
Yohanan Aleph/1 John 3:6 “Everyone staying in Him does not sin. Everyone sinning has neither seen Him nor known Him.”

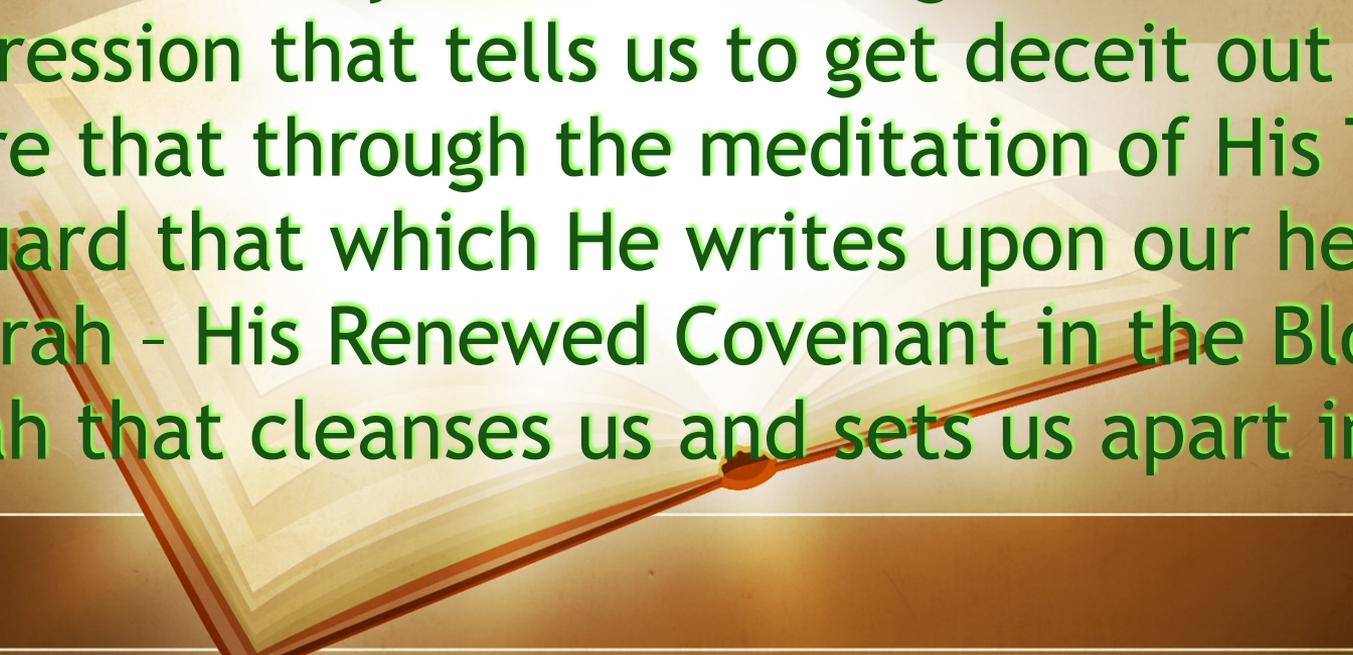
The way to be done with sin is to stay in the Master - and this is how we 'cleanse ourselves' - by staying in Him and walking in Righteousness - which is to hear, guard and do all His commands!!!

Ya'aqob/James 4:8 "Draw near to Elohim and He shall draw near to you. Cleanse hands, sinners. And cleanse the hearts, you double-minded!"



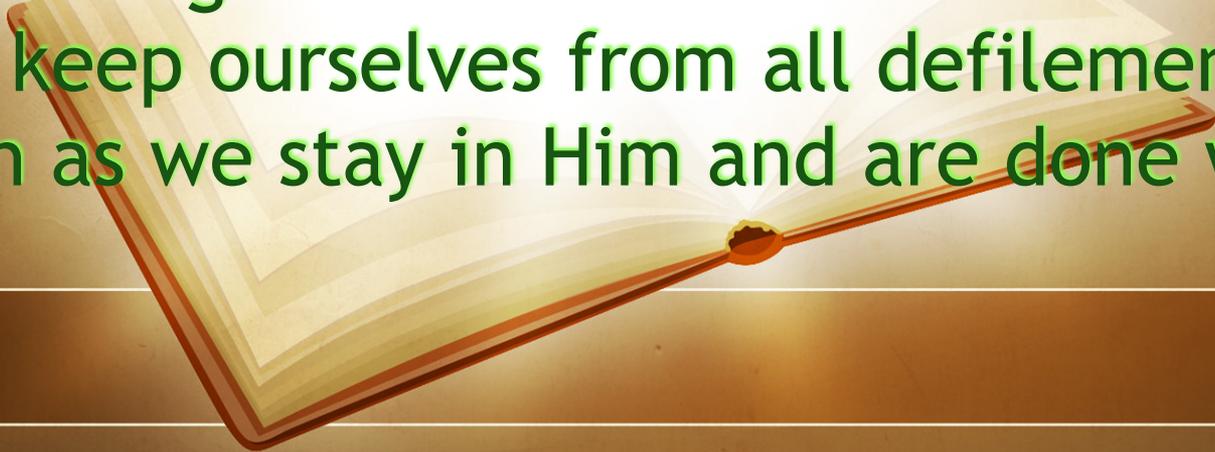
We are able to draw near to Elohim because of the red heifer sacrifice which, in a way, pictures the fullness of all the sacrifices, which point to and foreshadow the complete work of Messiah!





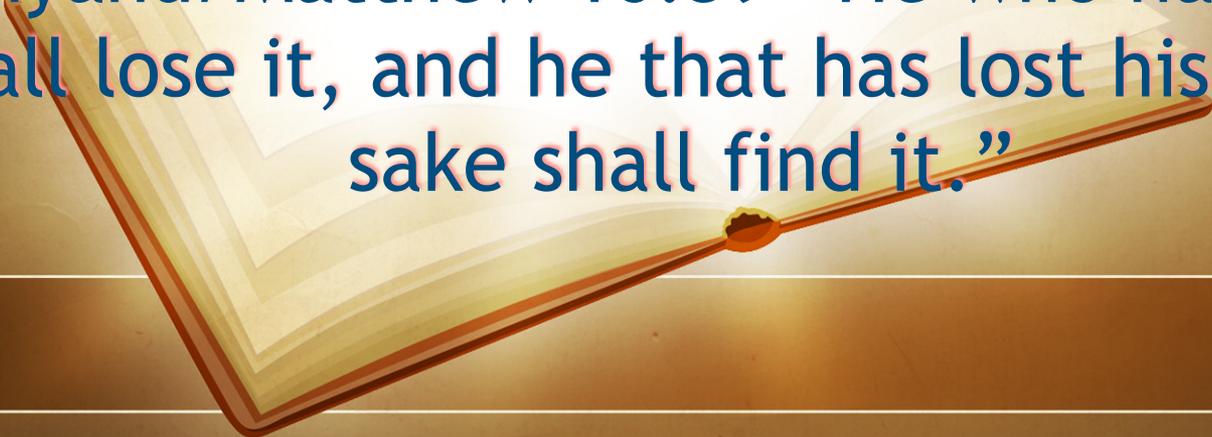
To cleanse hands, is an idiom to clean up our 'works' and ways and cleansing our hearts is an expression that tells us to get deceit out and ensure that through the meditation of His Torah we guard that which He writes upon our hearts - His Torah - His Renewed Covenant in the Blood of Messiah that cleanses us and sets us apart in Him.

When we recognise just what He has done and how He has cleansed us from all defilement - even burnt up all the 'dung' so to speak, may we be careful to guard our hearts and minds in Messiah and keep ourselves from all defilement of the flesh as we stay in Him and are done with sin!



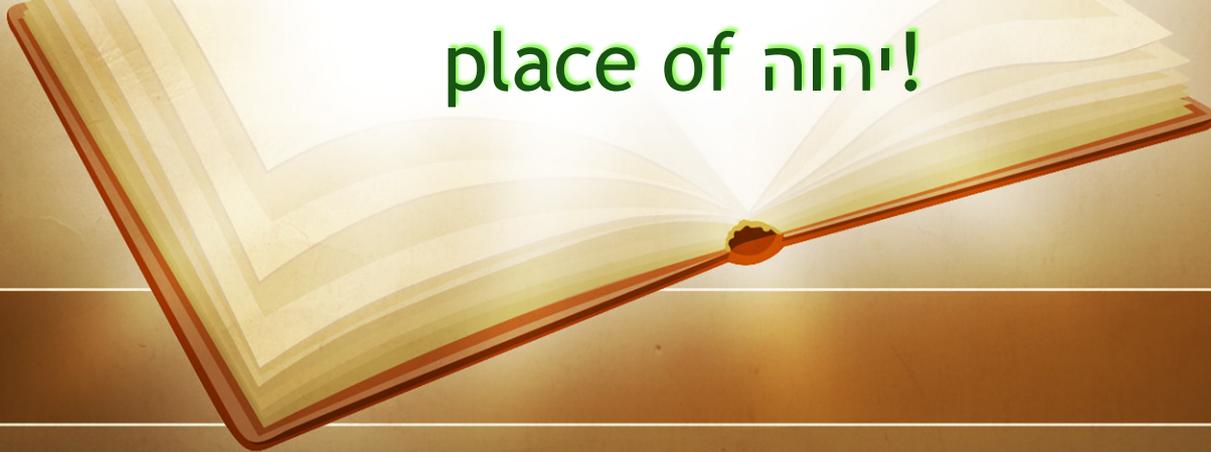
In understanding this concept of cleansing ourselves from sin, we see that by implication this renders the need to ‘die to self’ or in a sense ‘lose oneself’; and Messiah makes it clear for us in:

Mattithyahu/Matthew 10:39 “He who has found his life shall lose it, and he that has lost his life for My sake shall find it.”

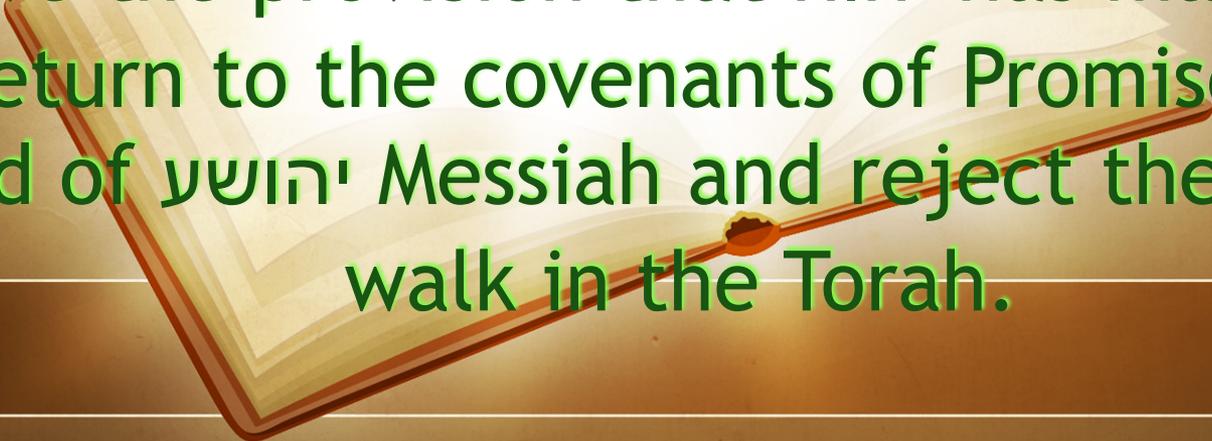


Verse 13

Anyone who touches the dead of a human being
and does not cleanse himself defiles the dwelling
place of יהוה!



In Scripture, we see that those who are in sin or who are lawless (that is to be without Torah) are in effect called “dead” as Ya’aqob/James 2:26 tells us that belief without works is dead; so, this can also be a picture of those who refuse to receive the provision that יהוה has made for all to return to the covenants of Promise by the Blood of יהושע Messiah and reject the need to walk in the Torah.

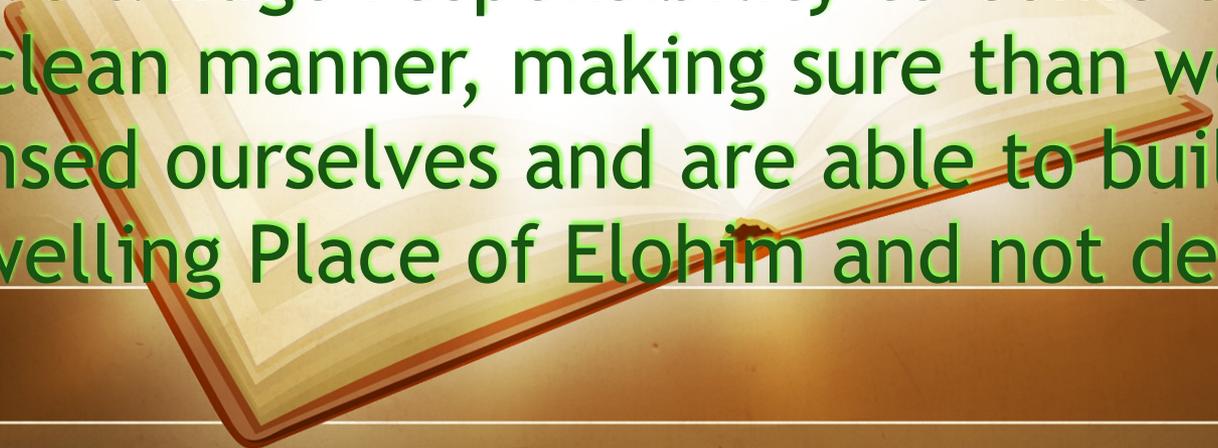


And as we come into contact with many 'walking dead' so to speak, and in more ways than one we find ourselves 'touching' them, we better be sure to 'cleanses ourselves' so as to not defile the dwelling place of יהוה.

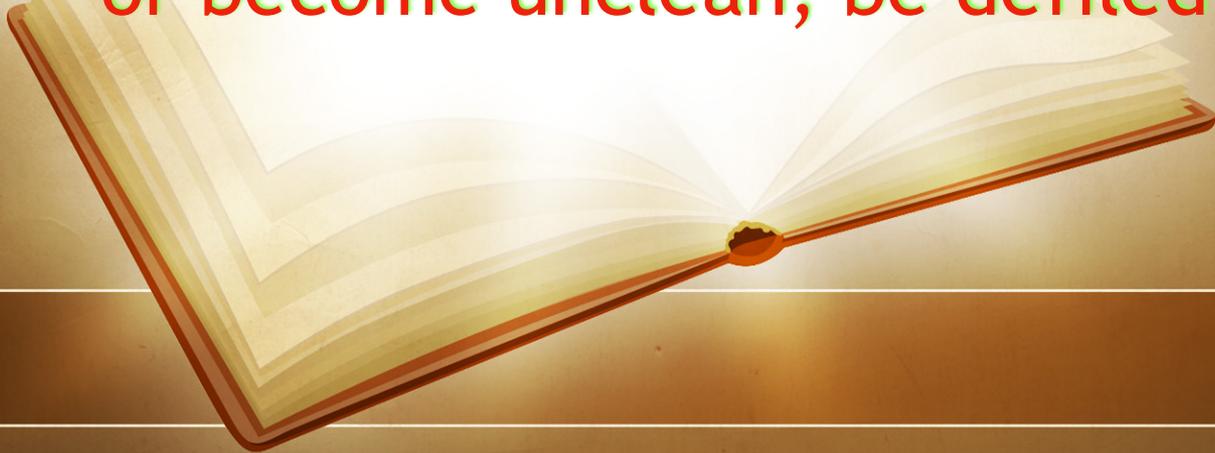
Ways in which we may 'defile' His Dwelling Place today, is by bringing in to the assembly all the bad attitudes and grumblings that we may have picked up in the world and have not cleansed ourselves from by the renewing of our minds through the washing of His Word!

When we come into the gathering of the set-apart ones with a defiled mind-set, for whatever reason, we bring defilement into His Dwelling Place and this we must not do.

We have a huge responsibility to come together in a clean manner, making sure than we have cleansed ourselves and are able to build up the Dwelling Place of Elohim and not defile it!

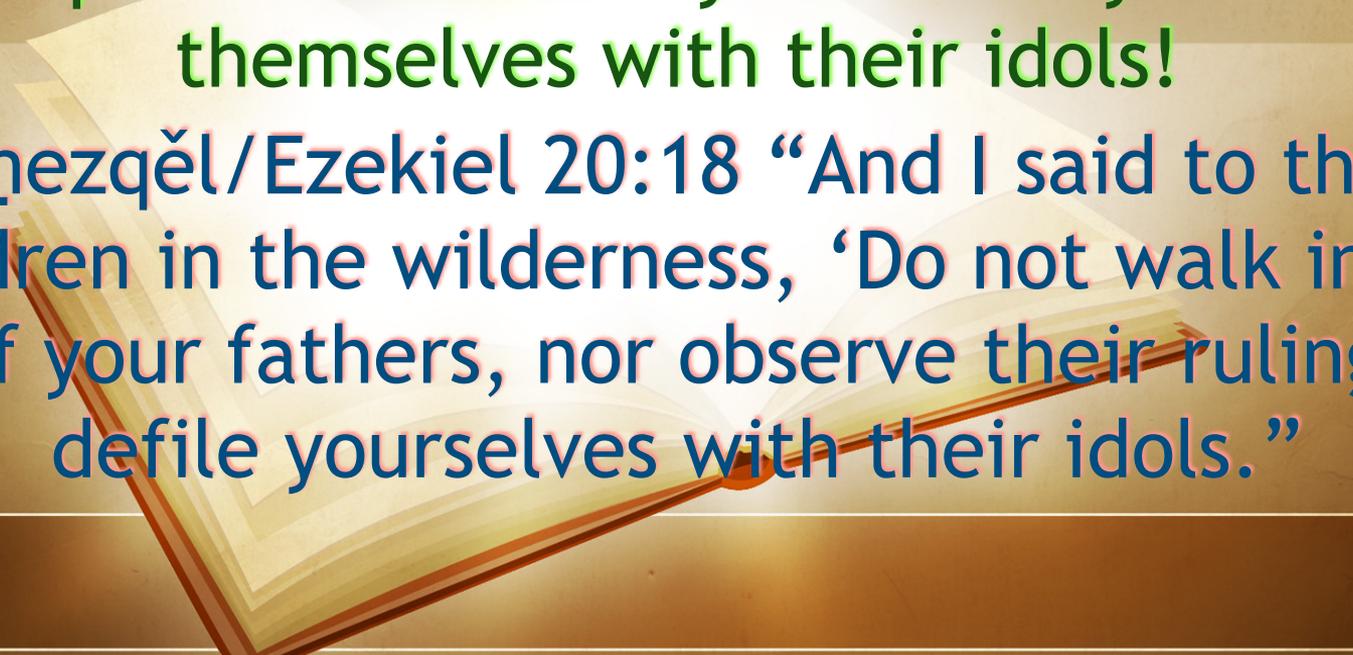


The Hebrew root word that is translated as defiles is טָמַא *tame* - Strong's H2930 which means, 'to be or become unclean, be defiled'.



Now, while there are many ways that Yisra'ěl certainly defiled themselves, what we see in Scripture is that many times they defiled themselves with their idols!

Yehezqěl/Ezekiel 20:18 “And I said to their children in the wilderness, ‘Do not walk in the laws of your fathers, nor observe their rulings, nor defile yourselves with their idols.’”



Today many are still defiling themselves with their many idols, be it materialism, running after wealth, hobbies, and even people that others idolise!

Our words also cause us to become defiled, more often than we would care to recognise and Messiah tells us:

Mattithyahu/Matthew 15:18 “But what comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and these defile the man.”

If our hearts are not cleansed then our speech becomes defiled and we risk defiling the Dwelling Place by infecting others with words that are not pure and clean!

And if we become unclean through our defiled actions and speech and other 'clean' ones touch us, we are in danger of causing the rest in the Tent to become defiled!

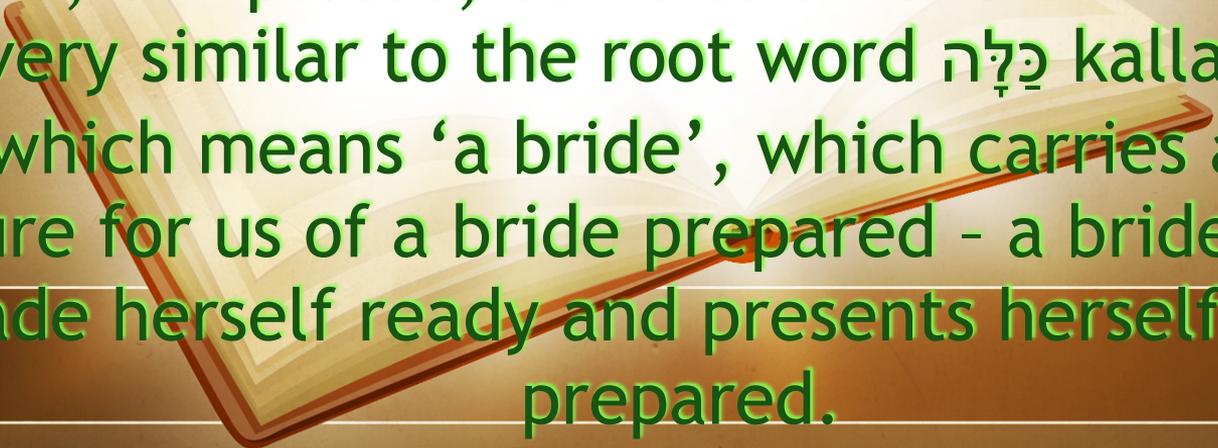
Mishlě/Proverbs 11:9 “The defiled one destroys his neighbour with his mouth, but the righteous is delivered by knowledge.”

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'defiled' here in Mishlě/proverbs 11:9 is חָנֵף ḥaneph - Strong's H2611 which means, 'profane, irreligious, hypocrite' and at its root means, 'to be polluted or defiled, to be a hypocrite, turn to hypocrisy and profanity'.

It is of vital importance that we cleanse ourselves and get rid of sin and all forms of hypocrisy.

Verse 15 tells us that every open vessel that has no cover fastened on it is unclean!

The Hebrew word that is translated as 'vessel' is כֵּלִי keli - Strong's H3627 which means, 'article, utensil, vessel, armour, weapon, tool for labour', which comes from the root verb כָּלָה kalah - Strong's H3615 which means 'finished, completed, come to an end or accomplished' and is very similar to the root word כָּלָה kallah - Strong's H3618 which means 'a bride', which carries a wonderful picture for us of a bride prepared - a bride who has made herself ready and presents herself as one prepared.

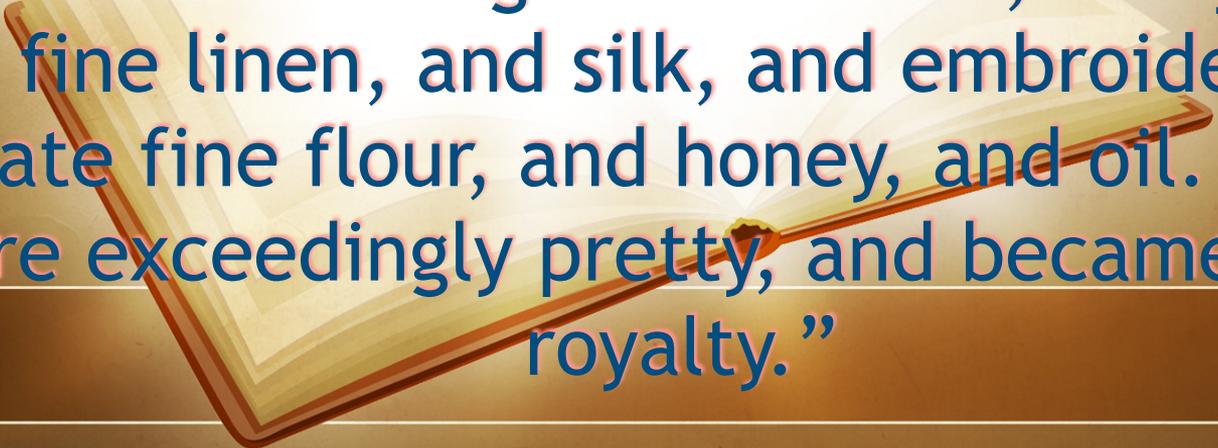


The clear warning seen in this verse is then very obvious - and that is that a Bride who has not prepared herself and is not covered, is not clean and will not enter into the reign!

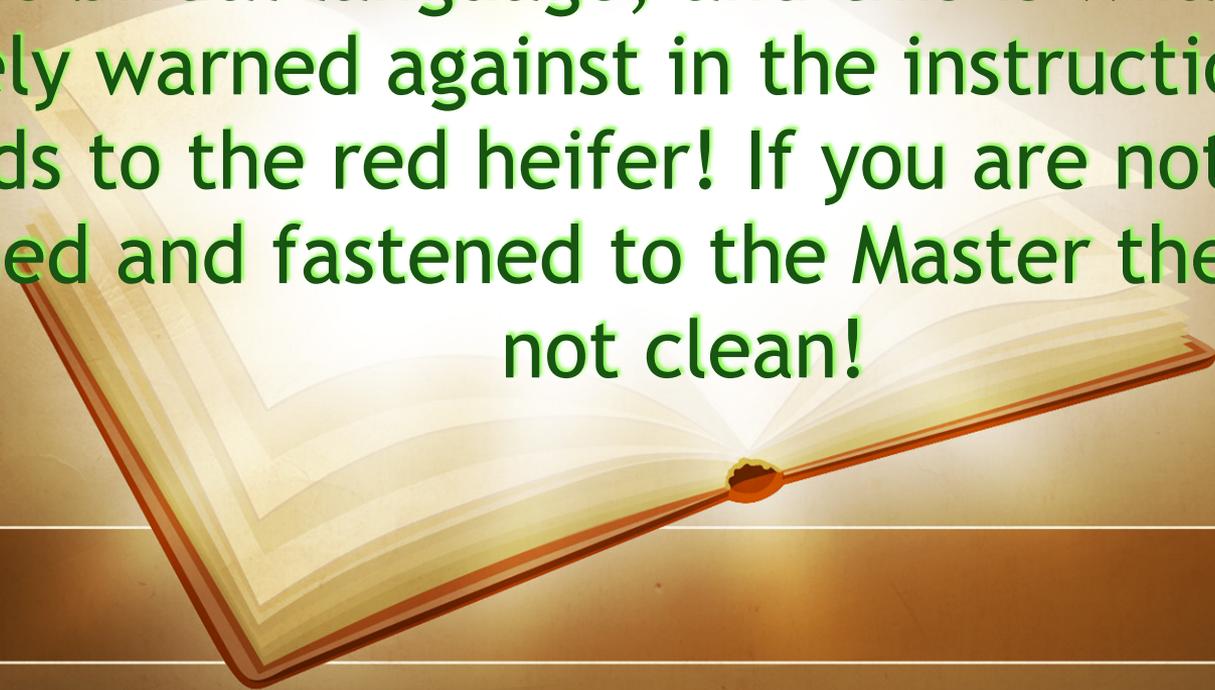
The Hebrew word that is translated as 'cover' is צָמִיד *tsamid* - Strong's H6781 which means, 'bracelet, covering (of a vessel', which comes from the root verb צָמַד *tsamad* - Strong's H6775 which means, 'to bind, join, fasten'.

The plural of this word is צְמִידִים - 'ts'miydiym', which is used in speaking of Yisra'el, where יהוה says the following in:

Yehezqěl/Ezekiel 16:11-13 “And I adorned you with ornaments, and I put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. 12. “And I put a ring on your nose, and earrings in your ears, and a crown of adorning on your head. 13. “Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your dress was of fine linen, and silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate fine flour, and honey, and oil. And you were exceedingly pretty, and became fit for royalty.”



This is bridal language, and this is what is being severely warned against in the instruction given in regards to the red heifer! If you are not covered, adorned and fastened to the Master then you are not clean!



The word צְמִידִים - 'ts'miydiym' is also translated as 'bracelets' in Berēshith/Genesis 24:22, when the servant of Abraham put the gold bracelets on Ribqah. In many ways, we are able to see the clear choice of Ribqah, who by accepting the bracelets from the servant of Abraham, accepted her being joined to Yitshaq and declared her faithfulness to the Husband she had not yet seen face to face! She was a bride who had been covered and, in many ways, pictures for us a 'vessel that had a cover fastened to it'.

Those who do not have a cover fastened to them are
unclean!

The Hebrew word for 'fastened' is פָּתִיל pathiyl -
Strong's H6616 which means, 'cord, thread, string', and
typically would be a chord or bracelet that would have
been made of threads being twisted together in order to
fastened an object to another.

This is the same word used to describe the 'chord of
blue' thread that was to be used to bind the breastplate
to the rings of the ephod; as well as the blue chord used
to attach the plate of clean gold to the high priest's
turban.

This word is used in:

Bemidbar/Numbers 15:38 “Speak to the children of Yisra’ēl, and you shall say to them to make tzitziyot on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue cord in the tzitzit of the corners.”



The Hebrew word פְּתִיל pathiyl - Strong's H6616, translated here as 'chord', is also used to describe the 'blue chord' that is to be in the tzitzit of our garments; and we recognise clearly that this 'chord' can represent for us a reminder to keep the commands of Elohim as we recognise how His commands are fastened to us, and in guarding to do them we keep ourselves clean!



The Hebrew word for 'unclean' is טָמֵא tamey - Strong's H2931 meaning, 'unclean, defiled' and comes from the verb טָמֵא tamey - Strong's H2930 which means, 'to be or become unclean, defiled, become impure' and when written in the 'piel form' which expresses an "intensive" or "intentional" action, it can render the following meaning, 'to defile: sexually, religiously, or ceremonially; to pronounce or declare unclean; profane the Name of Elohim'.

The Greek word used in the LXX (Septuagint) for 'unclean' is ἀκάθαρτος akathartos - Strong's G169 which means, 'unclean, impure', and we are told to not 'touch' that which is unclean but come out and be separate:

Qorintiyim Bět/2 Corinthians 6:17 “Therefore, “Come out from among them and be separate, says יהוה, and do not touch what is unclean, and I shall receive you.”

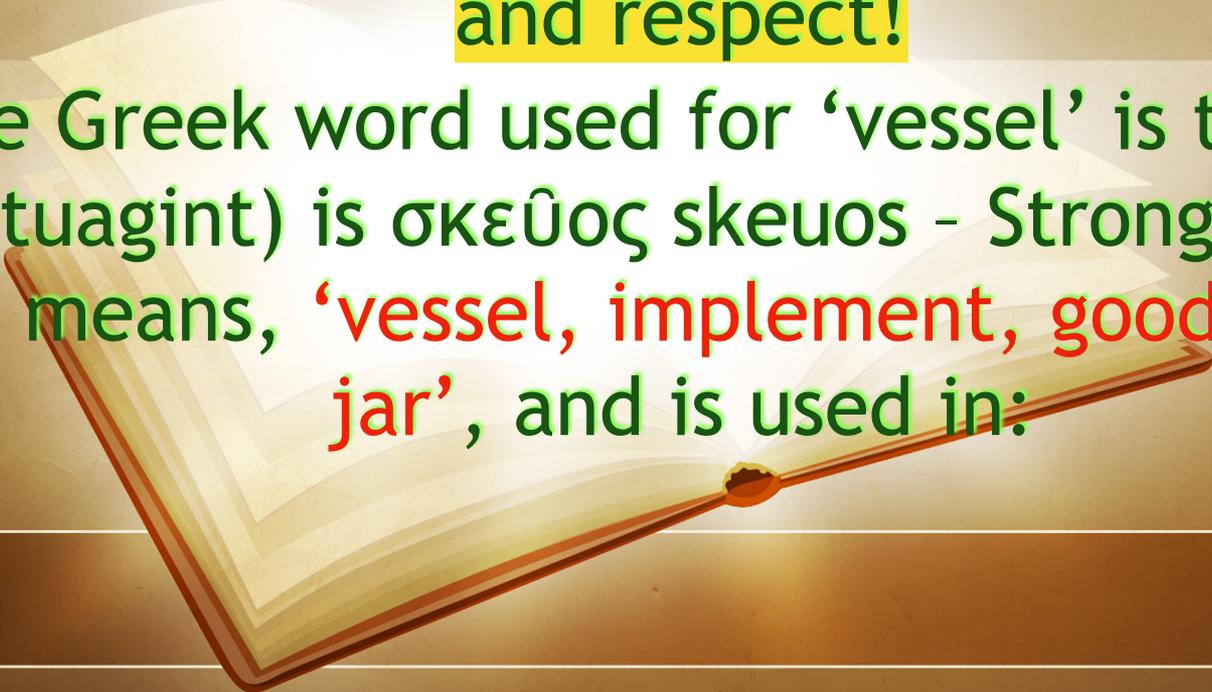
An adjective derived from this word is the Greek word ἀκαθαρσία akatharsia - Strong's G167 which means, 'uncleanness, impurity - physically and in the moral sense: the impurity of lustful, luxurious, extravagant and self-indulgent living'; which we are told should not even be named among us:

Eph'siyim/Ephesians 5:3 "But whoring and all uncleanness, or greed of gain, let it not even be named among you, as is proper among set-apart ones"

Tas'loniqim Aleph/1 Thessalonians 4:7 "For Elohim did not call us to uncleanness, but in set-apartness."

We are to be clean and covered vessels of honour
and respect!

The Greek word used for 'vessel' is the LXX
(Septuagint) is σκεῦος skeuos - Strong's G4632
which means, 'vessel, implement, goods, article,
jar', and is used in:



Tas'loniqim Aleph/1 Thessalonians 4:3-7 "For this is the desire of Elohim: your set-apartness! - that you should abstain from whoring, 4 that each one of you should know how to possess his own vessel in set-apartness and respect, 5 not in passion of lust, like the gentiles who do not know Elohim, 6 not to overstep and take advantage of his brother in this matter, because the Master is the revenger of all such, as we indeed said to you before and earnestly warned. 7 For Elohim did not call us to uncleanness, but in set-apartness."

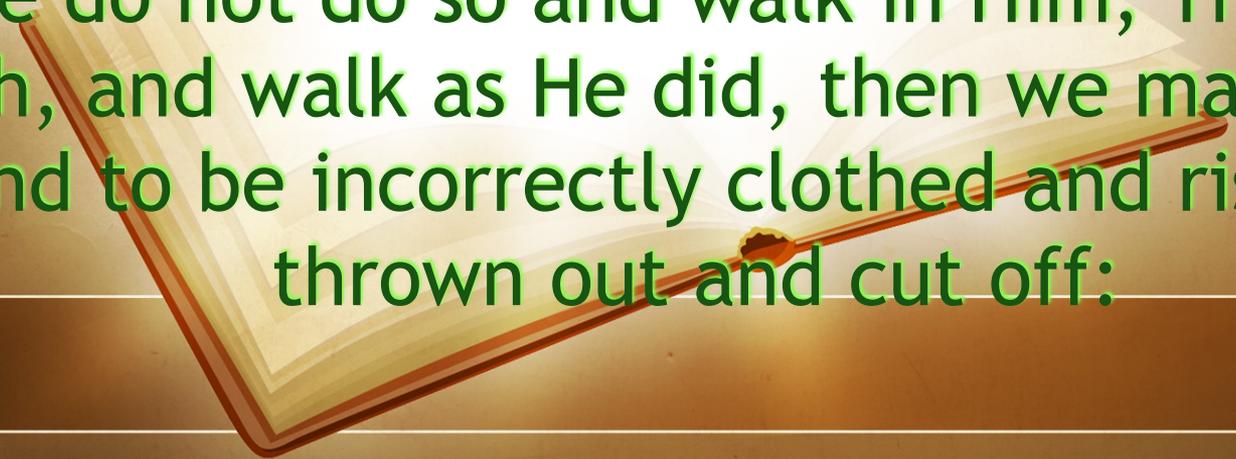
Verse 20 again makes it clear that the one who does not cleanse himself shall be cut off from the assembly.

We have been given garments of righteousness, by the work and ministry of Messiah, and by His 3rd day resurrection we have been given the ability to be cleansed in His Blood and are then clothed in Him, and we are to keep our garments from any defilement!

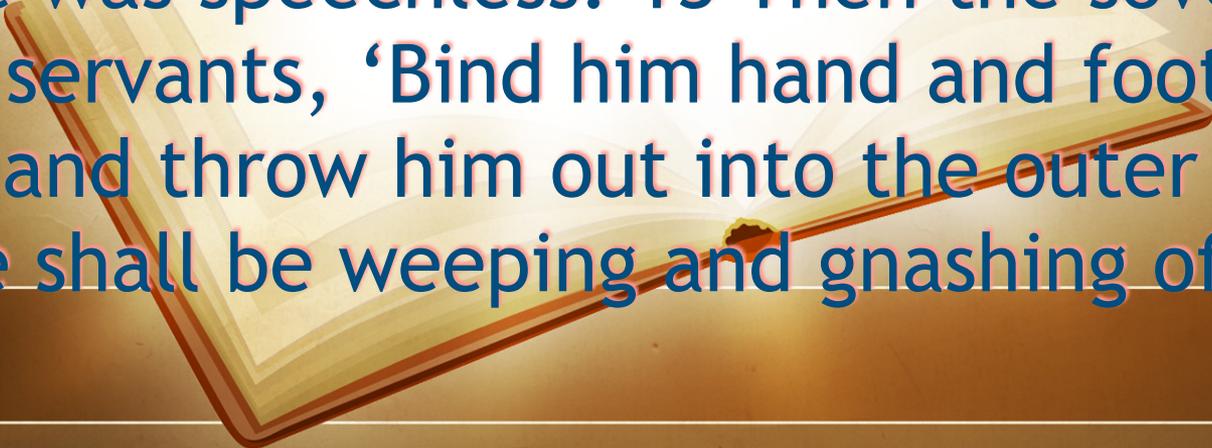


The fine linen (our garments) is the righteousnesses of the set-apart ones, and it is righteousness for us to guard to do all He has commanded us to as we lovingly and obediently walk in His Torah.

If we do not do so and walk in Him, The Living Torah, and walk as He did, then we may just be found to be incorrectly clothed and risk being thrown out and cut off:



Mattithyahu/Matthew 22:11-13 “And when the sovereign came in to view the guests, he saw there a man who had not put on a wedding garment, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here not having a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the sovereign said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him out into the outer darkness - there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”



This person had 'faith without works' and no true garments:

Hazon/Revelation 19:7-9 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him praise, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife prepared herself." 8 And to her it was given to be dressed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the set-apart ones. 9 And he said to me, "Write, 'Blessed are those who have been called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true words of Elohim."