

Numbers 19:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he that gathereth the ashes of the heifer shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even: and it shall be unto the children of Israel, and unto the stranger that sojourneth among them, for a statute for ever.

Analysis

The gathered ashes were kept for 'a water of separation: it is a purification for sin.' These ashes, mixed with water, provided ongoing cleansing for corpse contamination throughout Israel's wandering. One sacrifice thus served repeatedly for the whole community. This anticipates Christ's one sacrifice providing perpetual cleansing for all believers across all time.

Historical Context

The Hebrew term for 'water of separation' (mei niddah) implies separation from uncleanness. These ashes remained potent indefinitely, kept in a clean place for use whenever needed. This permanent provision demonstrated God's merciful accommodation to death's unavoidable presence in a fallen world.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's once-for-all sacrifice continue to provide cleansing for believers today?
2. What daily contaminations require you to appropriate Christ's ongoing cleansing work?

Interlinear Text

יִכְבֹּשׁ	וְהָאִסַּף	אֶת	אֵשׁ פָּר	הַפָּרָה	אֶת	בְּגָדָיו
shall wash	And he that gathereth	H853	the ashes	of the heifer	H853	his clothes
H3526	H622		H665	H6510		H899
וְיִטְמָא	עַד	הָעֶרֶב	וְהָיְתָה	לְבָנָי		
and be unclean	H5704	until the even	H1961	and it shall be unto the children		
H2930		H6153		H1121		
יִשְׂרָאֵל	וְלִגְר	הַגֵּר	בְּתוֹכָם	לְחֻקֵּיהֶם		
of Israel	and unto the stranger	that sojourneth	among	them for a statute		
H3478	H1616	H1481	H8432	H2708		
עוֹלָם:						
for ever						
H5769						