

Numbers 19:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall give her unto Eleazar the priest, that he may bring her forth without the camp, and one shall slay her before his face:

Analysis

The heifer was brought 'without the camp' for slaughter—outside the holy precinct. This detail prefigures Christ's crucifixion 'outside the gate' (Hebrews 13:11-13), where He bore our uncleanness. The paradox: what purifies must itself be treated as unclean. Christ became sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21), bearing contamination to provide cleansing.

Historical Context

Slaughtering the heifer outside the camp separated this unique ritual from regular sacrificial worship at the tabernacle. This extraordinary location emphasized the extraordinary nature of death's pollution and the special provision needed to address it. Normal worship structures couldn't contain this purification.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's suffering 'outside the camp' affect your willingness to identify with Him socially?
2. What does it cost to follow Jesus into places of rejection and uncleanness?

Interlinear Text

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------|--------|------------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| וַנִּתֵּן ׀ | אֶת־הָ | אֶל־ | אֶלְעָזָר | הַכֹּהֵן ׀ | | |
| And ye shall give | H853 | H413 | her unto Eleazar | the priest | | |
| H5414 | | | H499 | H3548 | | |
| | | | | | | |
| וְהוֹצֵא יָאֵ | | אֶת־הָ | אֶל־ | מִחַוּץ | לַמַּחֲנֶה הַ | וְשָׂחַ ט |
| that he may bring her forth | | H853 | H413 | without | the camp | and one shall slay |
| H3318 | | | | H2351 | H4264 | H7819 |
| | | | | | | |
| לִפְנֵי: אֶת־הָ | | | | | | |
| H853 | her before | | | | | |
| | H6440 | | | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 4:12 (Parallel theme): Even the whole bullock shall he carry forth without the camp unto a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and burn him on the wood with fire: where the ashes are poured out shall he be burnt.

Leviticus 4:21 (Parallel theme): And he shall carry forth the bullock without the camp, and burn him as he burned the first bullock: it is a sin offering for the congregation.