

# Numbers 19:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the priest shall wash his clothes, and he shall bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp, and the priest shall be unclean until the even.

## Analysis

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The priest who conducted the ceremony became unclean until evening despite his holy service. This paradox—the purifying agent contaminating those who handle it—reveals that Old Covenant rituals could not permanently resolve death's pollution. Christ alone, as priest who offered Himself, remained undefiled while bearing our uncleanness (Hebrews 7:26).

## Historical Context

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This temporary contamination applied to everyone involved in the ritual (verses 7-10), demonstrating the inadequacy of the system itself. The best Old Covenant provisions couldn't fully remove death's taint; they only provided temporary, ceremonial cleansing pointing to something better.

## Related Passages

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**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How do the limitations of Old Covenant rituals help you appreciate New Covenant realities?
2. What does Christ's remaining undefiled while bearing sin teach about His unique nature?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּמִים	בְּשָׂרוֹ	וְכָמָץ	בְּכָבֵד	בְּכָבֵד	בְּכָבֵד	בְּכָבֵד
shall wash	his clothes	Then the priest	and he shall bathe	his flesh	in water	
H3526	H899	H3548	H7364	H1320	H4325	
וְאַתָּה	יְבָא	אֶל	בְּמִן הַמְּקֹם	וְעַטְמָה	וְכָמָץ	בְּכָבֵד
and afterward	he shall come	H413	H4264	H2930	Then the priest	
H310	H935				H3548	
עַד	בְּעַרְבָּה					
H5704	until the even					
	H6153					

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 11:25** (Parallel theme): And whosoever beareth ought of the carcase of them shall wash his clothes, and be unclean until the even.

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