

Numbers 19-20:13 – Purity, Thirst & Anger.

I. Purity (Chapter 19)

i. (1-10) Making purification Water.

A **heifer**, a cow which has never been pregnant, and thus cannot yet give milk, would be sacrificed, with a bit of blood being sprinkled on the altar. Yet, the complete carcass of the animal was burnt and the ashes gathered.

When the heifer was burnt, the priest would also put **cedar wood and hyssop and scarlet** into the fire. The residue from the burning of the carcass, the cedar, the hyssop, and the scarlet fabric together would produce a lot of ash, and the ash was to be gathered and sprinkled in water bit by bit to make purification water.

ii. (11-16) Handling the Dead.

The practice of quarantining all those who come into contact with a dead body was a wonderful public health measure as well. Utensils around the dead were declared unclean and were to be purified.

iii. (17-22) Handling uncleanness.

The purification water was sprinkled wherever there were unclean utensils and the unclean person on the third day, seventh day. Thereafter the person would have to wash all their clothes, bath and wait until evening.

Those who help others to become clean must walk in cleanness themselves.

Matthew 23:25 - “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence.

Titus 2:11-14 - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

2 Corinthians 7:1 - Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

II. Thirst (Chapter 20:1-11).

- iv. (1) Miriam's death and burial.
- v. (2-13) Thirst.

The need was real, desert thirst is lethal, but they should've been polite and respectful, rather than in unbelief and with a provocative tone.

“Specifically, God told Moses to take the rod, but not to use it. Water would be provided if Moses would speak to the rock before their eyes.”

Back at Mount Sinai, God told Moses to strike the rock and water came forth in **Exodus 17:6**. He was here supposed to just speak to the rock.

Moses starts the task well but also got angry (you rebels) and in unbelief/frustration/bitterness (must we), struck the rock, not once, but twice.

He disobeyed and misrepresented God, nevertheless, water comes forth, but he disqualified himself from leadership.

James 3:1- *My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.*

The New Testament makes it clear this water-providing, life-giving rock was a picture of Jesus;

1 Corinthians 10:4 - *and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*

Jesus, being struck once, provided life for all who would drink of Him;

John 7:37-38 - *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*

Hebrews 10:29 - *Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?*

III. (12-13) Anger.

Anger is a natural response to perceived threats or offenses. It causes your body to release adrenaline, your muscles to tighten, and your heart rate and blood pressure to increase [often causing negative energy]. However, **anger** becomes a problem only when you don't manage it in a healthy way.

Whatever is begun in anger ends in shame. B. Franklin.

It is he who is in the wrong who first gets angry. William Penn.

The fastest horse cannot catch a word spoken in anger. Chinese Proverb

Psalm 4:4 - Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 - Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, For anger rests in the bosom of fools.

Proverbs 16:32 - He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

Ephesians 4:26-27 - "Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.

- Think before you speak.
- Once you're calm, express your anger.
- Get some exercise.
- Take a timeout.
- Identify possible solutions.
- Stick with 'I' statements.
- Don't hold a grudge.
- Use humor to release tension.
- Practice relaxation skills
- Seek help.