

The Red Heifer

INTRODUCTION

The most rare, unusual, and perplexing sacrifice in the Torah is the red heifer. The red heifer was rare because according to tradition only nine red heifers were ever found that met the qualifications. The red heifer was unusual in three ways: it was female, it was sacrificed completely whole, and it was sacrificed outside the camp. No part of the red heifer or its ashes ever came into the camp of the Israelites or into the Tabernacle. This meant the priest had to inspect the red heifer outside the camp. The priest who prepared the water of cleansing mixed the ashes with fresh water outside the camp. Therefore the ashes had to be perpetually stored outside the camp. Finally, the red heifer was perplexing because it is the only sacrifice that made the priest who conducted the sacrifice unclean. For a complete description of ordinances concerning the red heifer please read Numbers 19.



The ashes of the red heifer were essential for life in Israel. An Israelite became unclean who: touched a corpse, touched a human bone, touched a grave, entered into a tent in which a person died, or touched an open vessel (casket?) without a lid fastened. As Israelites died the necessity of preparing bodies for proper burial and digging graves meant a number of people became unclean in the process. If they were not cleansed they were excluded from the congregation within seven days. That meant another person was needed to become unclean dealing with the next corpse. For every person in Israel who died at least one living person and perhaps more would become unclean burying them. Without the water of purification, in one generation the entire congregation would become unclean.

Israelite soldiers who fought in battle and came in touch with corpses would have become unclean. Without the water of cleansing Israel would have had no army within one week of the first battle!

CONNECTION OF THE RED HEIFER TO THE NAZARITE VOW

The ewe lamb for the sin offering brought by the Nazarite (at the completion of his vow of separation to the LORD) and the red heifer are *the only female sacrifices of sheep or cattle specified in the Torah*. All other sacrifices of sheep and cattle specified in the Torah were male animals.

Israel was a society in which males took positions of authority. A male high priest was in authority over the male chief priests who were in authority over all the rest of the male priests. The male heads of tribes were in authority over the male heads of the families who were in authority over all other males in the family. Finally, every woman was in submission to either a father or a husband. The only way for those lines of authority to be legally voided was when a man took a Nazarite vow of separation to the LORD. During his vow the Nazarite served the LORD only.

The first key stipulation of the Nazarite vow was “**he must abstain from wine or other fermented drink and must not drink vinegar made from wine or from other fermented drink. He must not drink grape juice or eat grapes or raisins.**” (Num. 6:3-4)

Jesus was not a Nazarite. We know this because he drank wine. Christians are also not Nazarites because we take the communion cup. The stipulations of the Nazarite are intended to be interpreted spiritually. **The Nazarite is consecrated to the LORD: he is a type of the Christian.** Jesus said “**I am the vine, and you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.**” (John 15:5). **The grape vine is symbolic of the saints**, each one is holy because he is connected to Christ. What does it mean not to drink wine? It means **Christians do not drain the life out of other Christians**. We do not depend for our livelihood on other Christians. We provide for our own needs:

“**We were not idle ... nor did we eat anyone's food without paying for it. On the contrary we worked night and day, laboring and toiling so that we would not be a burden to any of you ... For even when we were with you we gave you this rule 'If a man will not work, he shall not eat'**” (2 Thess. 3:6-15)

The second key stipulation of the Nazarite vow was “**during the entire period of his vow no razor may be used on his head.**” (Num. 6:5). When a barber cuts hair he uses a razor. The vow implied the Nazarite had no barber, no authority over him who would trim his hair. **The trimming of hair is symbolic of slavery or submission to man's authority.** Joseph served Pharaoh. In order to appear before his master the slave Joseph shaved his face with a razor (Gen. 41:14). Priests were required not to shave the head for the same reason as Nazarites: “**They must be holy to their God**” (Lev. 21:6-7).

The female characteristic of devotion is in view here. The hair of a Nazarite grew long like the hair of a woman. The Nazarite, although a male, was as completely consecrated to the LORD as a godly female would be devoted and obedient to her father or to her husband. The loyalty of the Nazarite to the LORD was absolute. Loyalty or obedience to any other authority figure in Israel was forbidden.

CONNECTION OF THE RED HEIFER TO THE DEFEAT OF MIDIAN

There are only two instructions regarding the water of cleansing recorded in the Torah: Numbers 19 (general instructions) and Numbers 31 (specific instructions regarding the spoils of war). All other situations in the Torah that require ritual washing used plain water.

In Numbers 31 the LORD instructed Moses to send the warriors of Israel to completely destroy the Midianites. Not one Israelite warrior died in the battle but all Midianite warriors died. Every male in Midian and every woman in Midian who had slept with a man was put to the sword. But **the young girls who had never known a man intimately were not put to death.**

Of the spoil, Moses instructed that all metals be put through the fire and then washed in the water of purification. Spoil such as leather that could not survive fire was washed in the water of purification. The warriors of Israel and the captive girls bathed on the third day and on the seventh day. On the seventh day they washed their clothes. After purification, they and the spoil entered the camp.

These purification instructions were required in all wars. **It is significant that these instructions are recorded in connection to the defeat of the Midianites.** Midian was a nation with a spiritual heritage: Midian's father was Abraham by his wife Keturah. Moses was married to a Midianite woman, Zipporah, the daughter of a priest of Midian (Exodus 2:21). Moses was in close relations with the Midianites through his father-in-law Jethro who revered the LORD (Exodus 18:9-11).

The elders of Midian sinned because they harkened to the voice of Balak son of Zippor and allied with Moab against Israel. Midian did not seek the will of the LORD in this matter. They turned from the LORD and followed the leader Balak, the King of another people, the Moabites (Numbers 22).

Thus, **the vengeance of the LORD upon the Midianites was because they turned away from him and followed the King of another people.** The King of Moab hired a prophet named Balaam to curse Israel. Balaam brought a plague upon Israel by enticing the men of Israel to commit harlotry with the women of Moab. What began as spiritual harlotry in Midian turning away from the LORD ended with spiritual harlotry in Israel: the men of Israel sacrificed to the Moabite god Baal of Peor (Numbers 25).

Midian foreshadows the Gentile church. Midian was a non-Israelite nation that revered the LORD. The destruction of Midian foreshadows the falling away of Christian believers in the last days¹. In the last days **Christians will turn from holy devotion to Christ and will follow men into religious bondage.** This is what Paul meant when he said '**For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.**' (2 Cor. 11:2).

3 John says: "...Demetrius who loves to have the pre-eminence among them does not receive us" (v.9)

¹ Jethro had seven daughters (Exodus 2:16): a daughter represents believers or followers. Seven means 'The End' of 'Time'.

IDENTIFICATION OF THE RED HEIFER

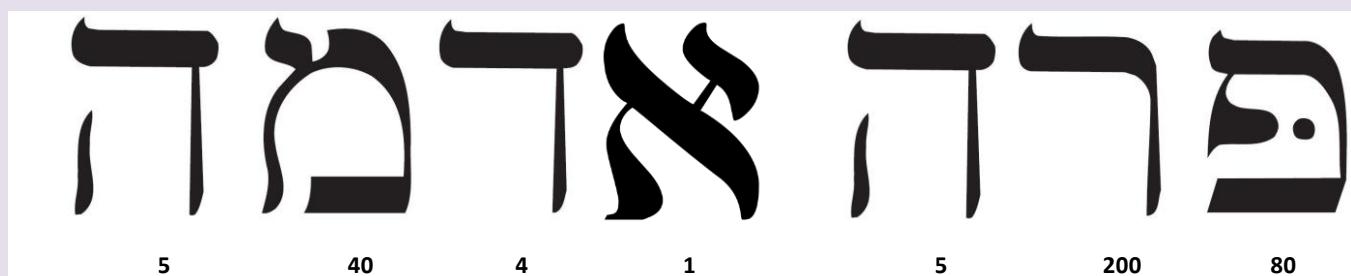
The red heifer must be a **female bovine**, a **virgin adult**, who has **never worked** (borne a yoke), **unblemished**, who has **not a single white or dark hair**. The red heifer must be slaughtered and burned outside the camp. Unlike other offerings, no part of this animal comes near the sanctuary or is offered on the altar. Its **blood was sprinkled 7 times** in the direction of the Tabernacle. **The priest who did the slaughter was unclean until evening.**

Here is our interpretation of the red heifer:

- In Scripture and in the Stars the bull is a type of the King of the Gentiles²
- Therefore, a cow represents a People of the Gentiles who submit to a King of the Gentiles
- A virgin heifer is a People of the Gentiles who do not submit to an earthly Gentile King (male)
- A heifer that has not borne a yoke means she has never been under the Jewish Law (Gal. 5:1-5)
- No white hairs and no dark hairs indicates she is the purest Gentile, no Jewish blood
- She is an unblemished sacrificial animal: she is righteous by faith in Jesus
- Her blood is sprinkled 7 times: the number 7 indicates this event occurs in the time of 'The End'

Our conclusion: **the red heifer represents the righteous Gentiles who are martyred in the last days**

When we look at the Hebrew letters in Numbers 19:4 for 'red heifer' it supports our conclusion: (please remember to read Hebrew from right to left)³



The word 'parah' which means *heifer* is spelled: Pey (80) Resh (200) Hey (5). The total gematria is 285 which means: **'Traitor Hanged'**. The word 'adomah' which means *red* is spelled: Aleph (1) Dalet (4) Mem (40) Hey (5). The total gematria is 50 which means: **'Purify'**. The gematria for the phrase *red heifer* is 335 (285 + 50) = 5 x 67. The number 335 means **'Weakness'** (5) of **'Gentiles Praise God'** (67).

The **red heifer is a type of Gentiles that Praise God** (sacrificial female bovine) **who are martyred** ('Traitor Hanged') **because they will neither submit to an earthly King as their spiritual Lord** (virgin heifer) **nor will they submit to the Law of God and convert to Judaism** (never borne a yoke).

² See our paper 'Taurus – The Times of the Gentiles' in section 7.0 Stars on our website

³ For explanation of how to interpret the Hebrew letters, please visit our page 22.0 HEBREW on our website.

Here is the mystery solved: why the priest who sacrifices the red heifer becomes unclean:

Before she is slaughtered her genealogy will be checked carefully to see if she has any Jewish blood (black or white hairs)⁴. It will seem to those who martyr these (righteous) Gentile believers in Jesus that they are cleansing the land ('purifying' it) of a wicked evil. However **the one who commits the martyrdom is the one who is guilty of a crime: the priest who does the slaughtering becomes unclean until the sun sets** (end of the Age of Grace). Within one week, the period of the Tribulation, he will be separated from the holy congregation: cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 19:20).

In 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Paul says the same thing concerning Gentile believers:

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple [martyrdom of Gentile saints], God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.”

BATHING ON THE THIRD DAY AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY

The Bible says “**a thousand years are like a day**” (Psalm 90:4) (1 Peter 3:8). The journey of the Israelites in the desert occurred in approximately 1446 BC. Adam was created in 4114 BC and Adam and Eve were cast out of the Garden in approximately 4000 BC (exact date unknown). The slaughter of the first red heifer was 2,554 years after the Fall. In other words it occurred in the 3rd Day, the third thousand year period since the Fall.

The present day (as of this writing) is 2,014 AD which is 6,015 years since the Fall⁵. We are now living in the 7th Day, the seventh thousand year period since the Fall. The slaughter of the last red heifer, the martyrdom of the righteous Gentiles, will occur in this millennium. For further explanation of the careful measurement of time since Creation please see all our papers on page 10 TIME on our website www.biblenumbersforlife.com.

The crucifixion of Christ took place in 33 AD, which was in the 5th millennium since the Fall. We take from this that **the sacrifice of the red heifer does not point to the Lord Jesus**. Rather, the sacrifice of the red heifer points to the righteous Gentiles, the Gentiles who follow Jesus devotedly.

Other reasons the red heifer can't be a type of Jesus Christ:

- Jesus Christ was an ethnic Jew (lots of black hair) {yet, some Gentile blood through David}
- Jesus Christ was born under the Law (bore the yoke) {and fulfilled it perfectly!}
- Jesus Christ is the Messiah, a high priest, a king! (male) {red heifer is a follower, not a leader}

⁴ This may be a genetic analysis. The human genome has now been mapped and Jewish markers have been identified.

⁵ Crossing the zero year between BC and AD always adds a year.

WHO ARE THE RIGHTEOUS GENTILES?

Every Christian knows righteousness is by faith in Jesus Christ: "... **the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith**" (Rom. 9:30). Our righteousness is obtained through our confession: "**That if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.**" (Rom. 10:8-9)

What does it mean to say: '**Jesus is Lord**'? It means to acknowledge that **Jesus is the head of the church, the master, the husband of his body**. It means that the resurrected Jesus who is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven is worthy of our total love and obedience. Jesus is Jehovah.

A Christian is a Nazarite in spirit. The Nazarite is consecrated and devoted to God. No male in Israel has any authority over a Nazarite. For the period of his vow **the Nazarite serves only God, not men**.

In the same way **Christians**, spiritual Nazarites, **are instructed not to follow or serve men**: "**One of you says 'I follow Paul'; another, 'I follow Apollos'; still another 'I follow Christ'. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptised into the name of Paul?**" (1 Cor. 1:12-13)

Christians are warned against **false brothers** (2 Cor. 11:13) who lead the church away from sincere and pure devotion to Christ (2 Cor. 11:3) into **the bondage of religion** and **the customs (rules) of men**:

"Some false brothers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on our freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us [their religious] slaves." (Gal. 2:4). Speaking to Peter Paul said "**How is it then that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?**" (Gal. 2:14). Paul insisted "**if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing**" (Gal. 2:21).

At the heart of the issue: "**Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us so that you may be zealous for them.**" And finally the seriousness of religious dalliance: "**Mark my words! I Paul tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all... You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.**" (Gal. 5:2-4)

If a Christian has fallen away from grace, can they at the same time be righteous by faith? Can a Christian belong to a religion that has male leadership in authority just as the priests were in spiritual authority over Israel? Can a Christian be a spiritual Nazarite wholly consecrated and devoted to Christ, and at the same time be in obedience to the rules of men as dictated by a religion? **Righteousness by faith in Christ and obedience to religious laws and the customs (rules) of men are mutually exclusive.**

If righteousness and religion can be mixed why is the apostle Paul so concerned about it? "**My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you...**" (Gal. 4:19)

THE GREAT FALLING AWAY

The point we are making is **the red heifer represents righteous Gentiles – spiritual Nazarites - they must not bear the yoke of religious bondage or follow men.**

A righteous Gentile does not have 'membership' in a local church that is part of a religious denomination with a constitution other than the Bible. Signing such a membership would immediately alienate the believer from Christ and from all other Christians outside that closed circle.

A righteous Gentile does not follow a male spiritual leader. They are not accountable to men for their actions. They do not submit their plans to men for review or approval. They do not require the sanction and licencing of men to practice spiritual gifts. They do not require the permission of men to meet in the name of Christ, to worship, to fellowship, and to celebrate communion.

They are not in obedience to men but are wholly devoted to Christ as the Lord leads them.

In the last days, righteous Gentiles will be as scarce as a red heifer. The Bible says:

"Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him we ask you brothers not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy report or letter supposed to have come from us saying the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for **that day will not come until the falling away occurs and the man of sin is revealed: the man doomed to destruction."** (2 Thess. 2:3-4)

When we look at faith in the world today we conclude **the great falling away is already upon us.**

Some estimates put the number of 'christians' in the world today at over 2 billion persons. Yet the vast number of those 'christians' attend religious services of worship administered by clergy. The 'churches' these worshippers attend belong to denominations with human-drafted constitutions. Subtracting all the religious 'christians' how many righteous Gentiles are there in the world today? A tiny number.

MIDIAN AND MOAB

Midian was a nation of true believers in Jehovah. Moab was a nation under the authority of a man, Balak the King. Due to Balak's persuasive words, Midian allied itself with Moab and put itself under the authority of a man. By doing so, they insulted their true king: Jehovah. A short time after the affair of Peor, the LORD commanded that Midian be destroyed. **This is a warning to us!** He is a jealous God.

There are many religious Christians who believe Jesus died for their sins. However, by belonging to a religion they have denied the primary tenet of their confession which is 'Jesus is Lord'. How long will the Lord Jesus endure this insult? When the destruction of the church comes in the last days should we be surprised? Any more surprised than when the LORD commanded the destruction of Midian?

WATERS OF PURIFICATION

The high priest of Israel at the time of Christ was complicit and guilty of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus when he brought him to the rulers of the Gentiles to be crucified. As representative of the nation of Israel, the high priest brought the guilt of the martyrdom of Jesus upon his whole people⁶. Israel was cast out of Palestine and its people became restless wanderers on the earth because of this sin⁷.

At the end of the Age of Grace there will be another high priest of Israel who will bring righteous Gentiles to the rulers of the Gentiles to be martyred⁸. When the population of believers in Jesus are almost completely decimated the rapture will occur. The Sun will set. Spiritual darkness will cover the earth because the Holy Spirit will have been taken out of the earth. The only witnesses of God left on earth will be the two witnesses of Revelations who will preach in Jerusalem.

In the last days the entire people of Israel will share the burden of the guilt of the martyrdom of righteous Gentiles by their high priest. Yet God's judgment on them will be delayed because temple sacrifices will be re-established and cover their sin. At the mid-point of Daniel's 70th week sacrifice will cease when the high priest unveils the abomination that causes desolation. This will release God's judgments on the Israelites: the second half of the Tribulation.

At the mid-point of the Tribulation, the people of Israel will know the Aaronic high priest is an idolator. The resurrection of the two witnesses in Jerusalem who testified of Jesus will convince them that Jesus is their Messiah. In order to avoid being killed by the high priest because they will not take the mark of the beast, believing Jews will flee Jerusalem and meet the Lord **outside the camp**. They will confess their national sin of destroying the righteous Gentiles and beg Jesus to forgive them. They will be forgiven (cleansed) only when they are **washed in water (repentance) mixed with the ashes of the red heifer (for the martyrdom of the righteous Gentiles)**! They will not be forgiven until they repent of both the national sin of crucifying Jesus and the national sin of destroying the righteous Gentiles.

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they pierced through, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” (Zech. 12:10)

In Numbers 25 a plague had fallen on the Israelites because of the sin of Peor where Israelite men engaged in harlotry with Moabite women. An Israelite named Zimri brought a Midianite woman named Cozbi into the camp. Phinehas chased them into a tent and with a spear and he pierced right through the Israelite into the woman's body. Yet, this was not a daughter of Moab. This may have been a Midianite woman who revered the LORD and detested the alliance of Midian with Moab. Could

⁶ “Whatever the unclean person [high priest] touches [people of Israel] will become unclean” (Numbers 19:22)

⁷ For further clarification, please see our paper ‘The Line of Cain’ on page 4.0 Prophecy on www.biblenumbersforlife.com

⁸ For further clarification, please see our paper ‘The Seven Seals’ on page 4.0 Prophecy on www.biblenumbersforlife.com

this have been a righteous Gentile? Before Zimri could explain the purpose of bringing Cozbi into the camp Phinehas killed them both. Phinehas may have been guilty of the murder of two righteous people: Zimri⁹ and Cozbi¹⁰. In Numbers 31 when the LORD orders the annihilation of the Midianites there is an exemption for the virgin daughters. Could Cozbi have been a virgin daughter?

And what happened to Phinehas? Having touched those dead carcasses he became unclean!

These events parallel the predicament of the inhabitants of Jerusalem realise when they flee to the desert: they are guilty of the murder of two righteous people: Christ (Zimri) and his righteous Gentile church (Cosbi). Their mourning and their repentance is for the sin of double homicide.

“On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity. On that day, I will banish the names of the idols from the land, and they will be remembered no more... I will remove the prophets and the spirit of impurity from the land.” (Zechariah 13:1-2)

When Zechariah says ‘a fountain will be opened’ it means those who flee to the desert to meet the LORD outside the camp, will confess their double sin, and they will be cleansed and purified of their sin because **they will be washed in the waters of purification**. Note the immediate association with banishing the names of idols. The righteous Gentiles followed Christ and served him only. When the sin of murdering the righteous Gentiles is confessed, **the children of Israel will be baptised in the Nazarite spirit of devotion to the Lord**. His entire people will never turn away from him again! The law of God will be written on their hearts. Prophets will be removed because there will be no sin for them to identify and condemn ever again! Hallelujah!

“In that day [7th day] ‘Holiness to the Lord’ will be engraved on the bells of the horses. The pots in the LORD’s house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yes every pot [worshiper] in Jerusalem and Judah shall be holiness to the LORD of hosts.” (Zechariah 14:20-21)

THE MOUNT OF OLIVES

When the Christ returns to earth to fight his enemies the Mount of Olives will split in two:

“And in that day [7th day] his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives which faces Jerusalem on the East and the Mount of Olives will split in two from East to West, a very large valley; half of the mountain shall move to the North and half to the South... And in that day [7th day] it shall be that living waters shall flow from Jerusalem, half to the Eastern Sea and half to the Western Sea.” (Zech. 14:4 & 8)

⁹ The gematria of Numbers 25:14 which names Zimri is: $4401 = 27 \times 163$. 27 means ‘holy truth’ and 163 means ‘word hid in heart’. Zimri was not a wicked man.

¹⁰ The gematria of Numbers 25:15 which names Cosbi is: $3464 = 8 \times 433$ [84th prime]. The number 8 mans ‘New Man’ or ‘Holy Man’ or ‘Believer’ and the number 84 means ‘Court of the Lord’. Cosbi was a genuine believer in Jehovah (8) who feared God’s judgment (84) upon her people for their sin of joining with Moab.

The base of the Mount of Olives is the place where the Aaronic priests sacrificed the red heifers. The sacrifice was conducted at the base of the mountain in a hollowed out depression. The hollowing out was done to ensure there were no graves beneath the spot of the sacrifice. The spot was at the base of the Mount of Olives to ensure no ashes were lost to the wind.

The Mount of Olives was the only spot that would work for this task because it was necessary to both sacrifice the red heifer outside the camp and to sprinkle the blood in the direction of the Tabernacle. From the base of the Mount of Olives the Aaronic priest could see the entrance to the Tabernacle¹¹, which faced East, and therefore he could accurately sprinkle the blood of the red heifer in the direction of the Tabernacle.

At the base of the Mount of Olives there was also a sacred site for the mixing of the ashes of the red heifer with fresh water. It was called the House of Immersion. The jars of ashes were stored in stone tubes inside this house. A priest was assigned to constantly watch the house to ensure those who entered it were clean. To ensure sanctity from hidden graves, the house was also built into a hollow.

A special bridge was built between the House of Immersion and the Tabernacle. The foundation columns of the bridge were sunk deep into the ground to ensure hidden graves were avoided. Jars of water of purification were transported from the House of Immersion across the bridge to the Temple.

As the place where the red heifer was sacrificed, the Mount of Olives is symbolic of Gentile martyrs. Jesus went to pray and to sleep there. No doubt he meditated on the souls who would come to believe in him and pay for their faith with their lives. In the triumphal entry Jesus mounted the colt of the donkey obtained from the village of Bethpage on the far side of the Mount of Olives and when he reached the summit and beheld Jerusalem he wept over it. As he rode into Jerusalem the people cried "Hosanna to the Son of David" but Jesus went immediately into the temple and cleared the buyers and sellers from the Court of the Gentiles (see Luke 19:28-45).

The colt of the donkey is prophetic of the Jews who will come to Christ during the Tribulation¹². The journey of the colt of the donkey tells us the Tribulation Jews who accept Jesus enter Jerusalem [the kingdom of God in the Millennium] only after literally treading under foot the Mount of Olives [the huge heap of Gentile martyrs who died before Daniel's 70th week]. Small wonder Jesus wept over Jerusalem, his huge Lion's heart was already bursting with sorrow from the thought of all the saints to come who would suffer in his name as he rode up the Mount of Olives.

Selah

¹¹ The Eastern wall of the Temple Mount and the Temple Court were built lower than the other walls to facilitate this.

¹² For further explanation see our paper 'Cancer – End Times Harvest' on Page 7.0 STARS on our website.