

Grace Christian Fellowship

April 2024 - Newsletter



Hi everyone! April this year could be an amazing month! I don't know if any of you have heard of the red heifer cows that were taken from Texas to Israel in 2022. Red heifers in the Bible were sacrificed as part of a purification ceremony.

Some people believe that a third temple will be built in Jerusalem in the end times and that a perfect red heifer has to be sacrificed in order for this to happen. Jewish tradition says that the sacrificing of the red heifer will usher in the Messianic Age. Whether or not a third temple will be built, we don't know, but there are certain Jews who believe it will. This is why they have been searching for some perfect red heifers and have currently built a huge altar on the Mount of Olives overlooking the temple site, which is where the red heifer has to be sacrificed.

Many people are saying that the red heifer will be sacrificed this Jewish passover, which is April 22nd 2024, or soon afterwards, or perhaps next year. The fact that the red heifers have been brought to Israel has already caused upheaval by those opposed to the Jews and their religion/beliefs. In one of the Hamas videos, a spokesman stated that one of the reasons for the October 7th attack was because the red heifers had been brought to Israel, as they believe the sacrifice could threaten the safety of their mosque.

Whether we believe in the idea of a third temple or not, there could be significant trouble in an already troubled area, when, or if, the heifers are sacrificed. Only nine red heifers have ever been sacrificed in Jewish history, so this would be the tenth. Jewish tradition says the tenth red heifer sacrifice will be at the time of the Second Coming of Christ! These are certainly exciting times, but we must keep praying for Jerusalem and the Jewish people. xx

Red Heifer's in the Bible

'Now the Lord spoke to Moses and to Aaron, saying, "This is the statute of the law that the Lord has commanded: Tell the people of Israel to bring you a red heifer without defect, in which there is no blemish, and on which a yoke has never come...and the heifer shall be burned in his sight. Its skin, its flesh, and its blood, with its dung, shall be burned... and the ashes shall be kept for the water for impurity for the congregation of the people of Israel; it is a sin offering".' (Numbers 19)

The ashes of the red heifer were required for proper priestly sacrifices to be made, in order to make atonement for sin. The ashes of the perfect red heifer go into a vessel with fresh water, and this water of purification cleanses from sin and death.

Today this passage about the red heifers is read in synagogues in the lead up to Passover, since it relates to ritual cleansing. According to the Bible, the sacrifice of red heifers had to be burned 'outside the camp' as the priest is described as coming back into the camp with the ashes, in Numbers 19:7. Due to this tradition, red heifers could be sacrificed on the Mount of Olives, which is east of the Temple Mount, and outside the walls of the city.

We read in Jewish commentary that in later generations, when this ritual was to be performed outside the Temple in Jerusalem, the priest should stand to the east of Jerusalem and 'direct his gaze toward the entrance to the Temple' while sprinkling the blood. So as long as the Temple Mount is in eyeshot, the red heifer can be sacrificed anywhere on the Mount of Olives.

Without such cows the priests cannot be ritually pure and therefore cannot offer sacrifices according to the biblical law. Since the destruction of Solomon's temple, ie. the second temple in 70 AD, there has been no way of purifying the priests to offer sacrifices according to the law laid out in the Bible. The people of Israel may be back in their land and free to follow Jewish law, but sacrifices have not been possible without a perfect red heifer.

They have hunted high and low for years to find a suitable candidate, ie. a perfect red heifer, with no defects, no blemishes, unyoked and flawless but with no success.....until now.

News

Nicky and Samuel's Arrival in April

David's visa finally arrived, so Nicky has booked flights for her and the family to come to the UK. She lands at Heathrow on Thursday 25th April and will return to India on Monday 17th June.

This means she will **probably be at church** on Sunday 28th April, but will leave for Wales after church on Sunday afternoon. We haven't any other dates yet, as Nicky has still to plan her busy programme, but we will keep you all informed when further info is given!

The charity offering in March will be given to Nicky to help with their traveling costs, if anyone would like to donate. Let's pray all the other arrangements she has to make, fall into place easily!

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New Projector Crate!

Thank you to Russell who finally managed to find a new crate for the projector for us. We have been searching for ages and were unable to find one big enough, but Russell managed to find a perfect crate.

Thank you Russell and may God bless you.

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Prayers

Let's continue to pray for Georgie, who is having to undergo a number of scans and tests. Also pray for Roger who recently had a scan - let's pray for good results! Please keep praying for Nicky and Samuel's trip and all the flights and arrangements that have to be made.

'Father, on this Easter Sunday we rejoice that Jesus rose from the grave, conquering sin, death and darkness. We thank you for the family of believers across the world and thank you for the new life you give us in Jesus. Amen.'

"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said." (Matthew 28:6)

Grace Christian Fellowship

Meetings/Programme

Church Service - every Sunday 11am at Saints Event Venue

Communion Service - first Sunday in the month

Prayer Meeting -10am before service at SEV / first Sunday of the month

Charity Offering - third Sunday in the month

Live from India - Nicky preaches usually on the last Sunday of the month

Forthcoming Events /Church Programme 2024

Thursday 25th April - Nicky and family arriving from India

Sunday 28th April - Nicky and family at GCF?

Monday 17th June - Nicky and family return to India

Saturday 17th Aug - Church Day Out?

Sunday 29th Sep - Harvest Festival Service

Sunday 20th Oct - Church Birthday/Macmillan Coffee Morning

Sunday 3rd Nov - Service with Fireworks

Sunday 10th Nov - Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 15th Dec - Christmas meal..? OR...

Sunday 22nd Dec - Christmas Meal and Carol Service?

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If you would like to donate to the church, you can give during the service, donate by bacs online, or go to the 'donate' button on the 'Contact' page

of the website and make a payment there. If you would like to donate by cheque, please make the cheque out to Hope Community Trust.

Grace Christian Fellowship is part of registered charity

Hope Community Trust - 1000798

www.gcfnorwich.co.uk gcf@norwich.myzen.co.uk

Sunday Services are held at **Saints Event Venue**,
217 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0SQ from 11am-12.30pm