

# IS THE RED HEIFER CEREMONY IMMINENT?

by Mondo Gonzales



**WE** are indeed living in exciting times when considering the quick movement that has been happening over the last 25 years in the Third Temple movement. I have written much about this in my book, *The Red Heifer Ritual: The Last Piece of the Third Temple Puzzle*. Things are happening so quickly that I am working on an updated and revised edition which will be published by Charisma Publishing in early 2025 (Lord willing).

The increased interest in the upcoming red heifer ceremony is good in that it is drawing more people into understanding that we are living at the end of the age. The negative part of this is that various misinformation seems to be ubiquitous on the internet. There also is carelessness or even intentional misleading by so-called journalists when covering the red heifer news. One of these was back in March 2024 when CBS News correspondent Chris Livesay went to Israel to report on the red heifers who are now located in Shiloh. He interviewed Yitzhak Momo (a rabbi affiliated with the Temple Institute) who owns a key piece of property on the Mount of Olives where the ceremony could likely will take place. In the interview, he intimated that Yitzhak and other red heifer proponents *were themselves the reason* for the October 7 Hamas attack! It seemed quite obvious in the video accompanying his article that he was providing incendiary material with a pro-Palestinian bias.

Further, in the video he made the statement that the Jews had built an altar which was just

about ready to be used by the Jews in a red heifer slaughter. They showed the following image at the 2 minute 6 second mark in the video.



There are at least three things wrong with this report. ① The altar shown is more than 20 years old, at a location near the Dead Sea and is not on the Mount of Olives at all, which is the required ceremony location according to the rabbinic tradition of the Mishnah. ② The ceremony does not involve an altar. An altar in the Third Temple system only exists on the Temple Mount. The red heifer is not sacrificed as those only happen on the Temple Mount. It is killed and then burnt in whole on a pyre with other elements as described in Numbers 19. ③ That altar (see photo) was torn down years ago and is no longer used for rehearsals. Yet the CBS report intentionally makes it look like *this* altar is currently being built for the very purpose of the red heifer ceremony! This was a deliberate lie and disinformation seemingly meant to enflame the situation with the Arab population and to foment increased hostility against the Jewish people.



The red heifers were brought into the news again recently with some over-exaggerated fanfare by some. This involved a rehearsal ceremony with a picture of a cow by a rabbi and priest with a few others. The following picture was tweeted by Yinon Magal on August 6, 2024. Yinon is a journalist and former politician in the Israeli Knesset. He wrote in his Hebrew tweet, "Towards Tisha B'Av: Temple worshipers are now practicing the mitzvah of a red cow in front of the Temple Mount, which will enable the return of purity and the observance of all the temple mitzvahs." There was nothing wrong with his report and he included the following picture.



There are several things to note in this picture. I find it humorous that the red heifer paper cutout in the background is not even fully red! Secondly, we can observe that the rabbi on the left is the research director at the Temple Institute organization. His name is Rabbi Azaria Ariel, the son of the founder of the institute. Third, this practice rehearsal is taking place in the old city not far from the western wall and the Temple Mount. You can clearly see the Mount of Olives in the background and the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount. So, this practice ceremony is clearly not happening on the required

location of the Mount of Olives.

I do not put any fault of insincerity in those involved in this rehearsal. They are simply practicing with what looks like a young priest. However, many people ran to social media and began to say that this was part of a new red heifer ceremony taking place right now in Israel! This is a complete lie and pure exaggeration. Nothing of the sort is true. We need to always make sure and do the research to vet the information before passing it along as much of what is being presented right now is complete error.

At the same time, we realize that even though there has been a delay in performing the ceremony on the Mount of Olives, those involved in the process are not sitting around doing nothing. They are practicing and keeping the ceremony very much in their current thinking. The various groups of rabbis are working out all the details and trying to gain as much consensus as possible between the various religious orthodox groups.

One last item to note is that our friend, Aaron Lipkin, of LipkinTours.com, recently visited the Shiloh site and recorded a video. He mentioned that 3 of the cows have been officially disqualified leaving only two left who still maintain some level of preliminary qualification. The rabbis are quick to say that the cows cannot be fully qualified until the moment before the ceremony takes place. Until then, it is only preliminary as they will need to do a fresh evaluation right before the ceremony takes place. We are living in exciting times as there hasn't been even a preliminarily qualified red heifer in more than 1,900 years! Jesus is coming soon! And He will fix the world and all its mess and the Earth will be filled with the glory of the LORD. God's presence will not be in the shadows any longer and the whole world will give Him the rightful glory He deserves. Maranatha! **PW**

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