

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



Hyssop

Part of the Sumer Series

Exodus 12:21-23, etc.

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Hyssop



Hyssop

Introduction:

- Previously we looked at the Red Heifer Offering (Num. 19).
- Hyssop became part of the ashes, but also used to apply the “water of purification” made using those ashes.
- Began to investigate other mentions of hyssop in the Bible.
- Why so important to be mentioned so many times?
 - Found nearly everywhere in the Middle East (see 1 Kings 4:33).
 - Well known by everyone.
 - Useful for many things (bunches had capacity to hold liquids).
 - Medicinal value because of aromatic oil.
- Today we’ll look at three other references and their lessons to help us focus on the marvelous work of Jesus Christ.

Hyssop

Exodus 12:21-23 (NKJV)

²¹ Then Moses called for all the elders of Israel and said to them, “Pick out and take lambs for yourselves according to your families, and kill the Passover lamb. ²² And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin. And none of you shall go out of the door of his house until morning. ²³ For the Lord will pass through to strike the Egyptians; and when He sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you.

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Body of Lesson:

1. Its use at the Passover (Ex. 12:21-23)

- Last of the 10 plagues in Egypt: kill all firstborn not protected by the blood of a lamb.
- Instructions from God: kill lamb on doorstep, prepare a bunch of hyssop, dip this in the blood (in basin or depression in doorstep), strike the lintel and two side posts (blood on all four sides of door), take the lamb inside, roast it, eat it completely dressed for journey (exodus) out of Egypt.

Hyssop



“And you shall take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood that is in the basin, and strike the lintel and the two doorposts with the blood that is in the basin.” (Lev. 12:22)

Hyssop

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- When the Lord saw the blood He protected the inhabitants so that the death angel would not strike the firstborn inside the house.
- What saved them (including Moses, Heb. 11:28) was faith in the blood of the lamb! This is a picture of the NT concept “redemption”.

Hyssop

I Peter 1:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Now let's look at a second reference to hyssop.

Hyssop

Leviticus 14:4-6 (NKJV)

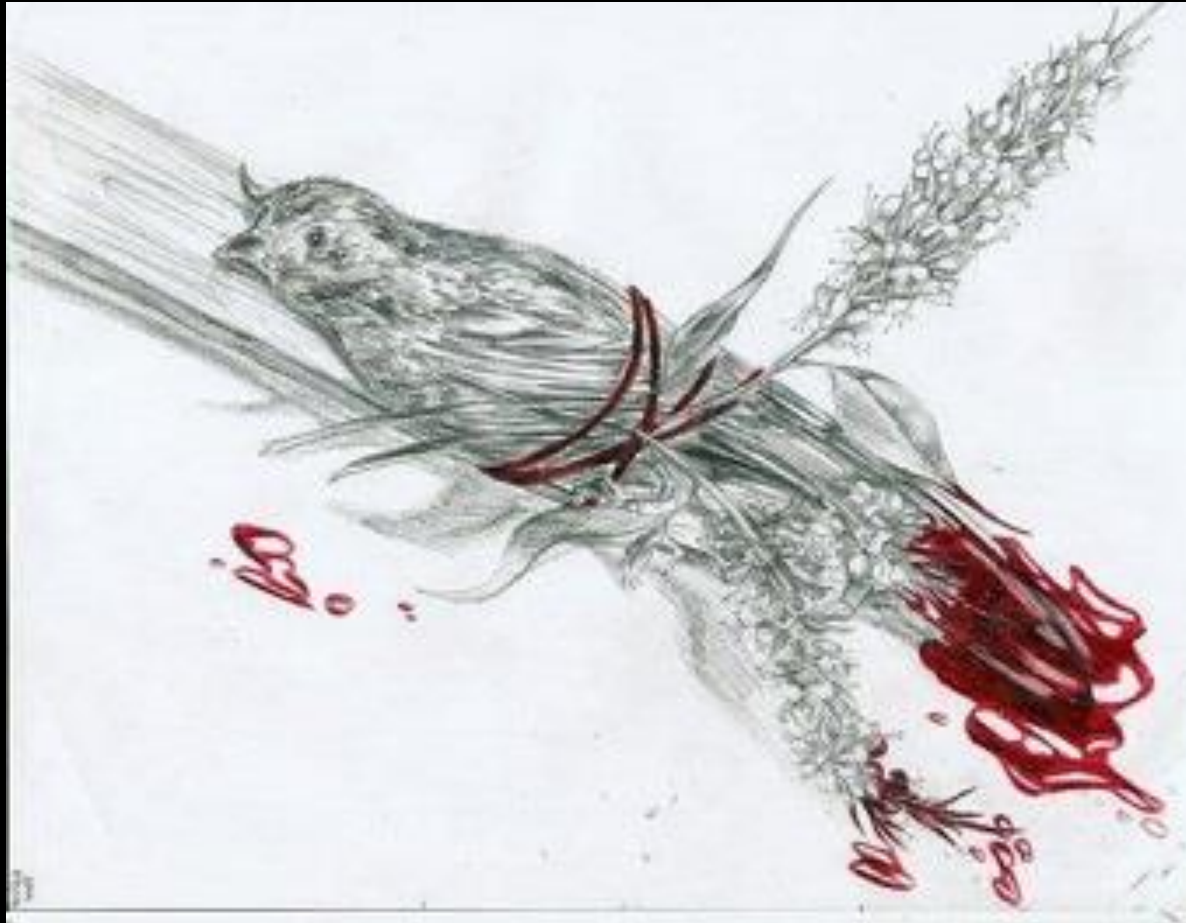
⁴ then the priest shall command to take for him who is to be cleansed two living and clean birds, cedar wood, scarlet, and hyssop. ⁵ And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water. ⁶ As for the living bird, he shall take it, the cedar wood and the scarlet and the hyssop, and dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water.

Hyssop

2. Its Use in the Cleansing of Leprosy (Lev. 14:4-6; 49-53)

- Same trio (cedar, hyssop, scarlet) used in the cleansing of leprosy (disease in humans or mold in buildings) as used with red heifer.
- Ceremony symbolic but meaningful. Two clean birds (pigeons) used. One killed and blood mixed with running water into a vessel. The other was tied alive with a scarlet cord to the cedar and hyssop. The tail was downward and the tail was dipped in the blood/water in the vessel and then sprinkled on the person or building now clean. Then the second bird was untied and released into the open field.

Hyssop



“Aspergillum as described in Leviticus”
By Julia O’Gara

Hyssop

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- What is leprosy and what does it represent?
- Hanson's disease (now curable, but then usually not curable).
- Almost always a picture of sin and consequences of losing feeling.
- Jesus touched the lepers that came to him for healing (Lk. 5:12-16).
- Jesus died on Calvary to cleanse us of our sin and then release us.

Hyssop



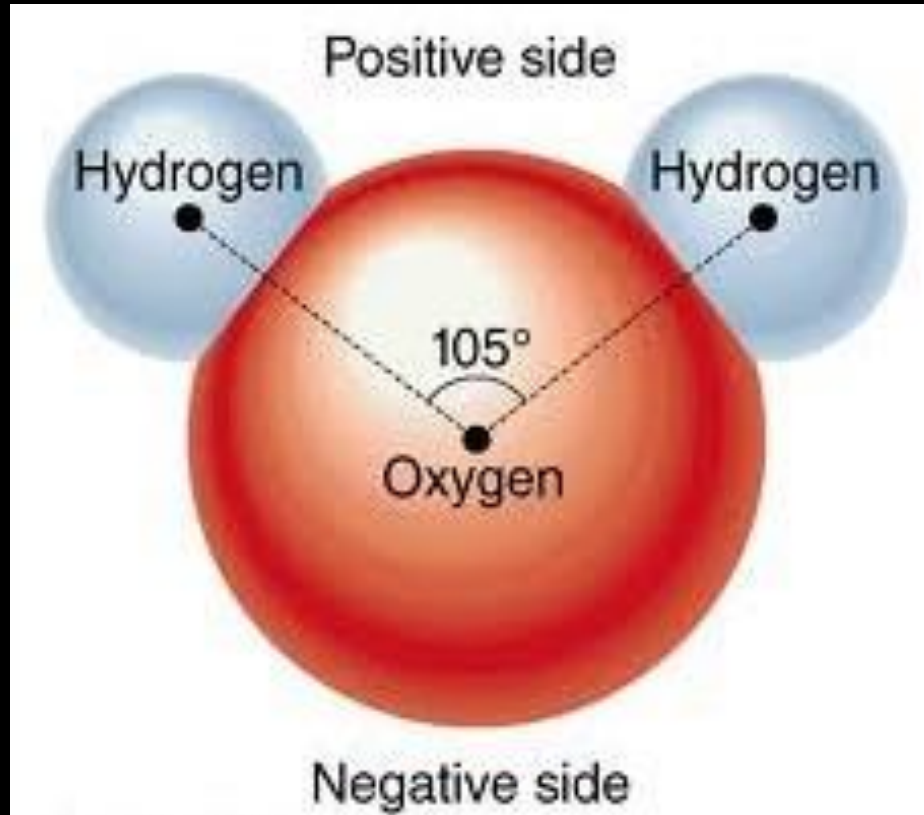
Leprosy Patient's Hands

Hyssop

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- Jesus died on Calvary to cleanse us of our sin and then release us.
- Water (H₂O or correctly H-O-H) is the perfect universal solvent!

Hyssop



Water—The Perfect Universal Solvent

Hyssop

And now the third and final reference to hyssop that we will look at today.

John 19:28-30 (NKJV)

²⁸ After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!” ²⁹ Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth. ³⁰ So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

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3. Its Use at the Crucifixion of Jesus (Jn. 19:28-30)

- Review the process of crucifixion.
- Seven last “words” (statements) uttered while on the cross. The 5th “word” was “I thirst”.
- Soldier overseeing the crucifixion found a piece of sponge (liner of his helmet?), and dipped it into vinegar kept for just such a purpose. Vinegar is from sour grapes (or apples) and is 98% water and 2% acetic acid. The sponge with vinegar was put on the end of a stem of hyssop and offered to Jesus to suck on briefly. That enabled Him to quench His parched tongue and utter the final two “words” (“It is finished.” and “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.”)

Hyssop



“...and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on hyssop, and put it to His mouth.” (John 28:29)

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- This calls to mind all that Jesus fulfilled by his death: Lamb of God, slain as substitute for our protection and redemption; He is the One who cleanses us from sin and defilement by the water and the blood that flowed from his pierced side that now sets us free; His perfect humanity was on display to die in order to give birth to His church!

Hyssop

Application:

Compare all this to the soap making process using hyssop.

1. **Ashes**—from slain heifer (also contains hyssop and remains of the scarlet worm)
2. **Water**—dissolve elements in ashes to make lye (KOH); also in the “water of purification”
3. **Oil**—combine in just the right amount (saponification); oil is also a picture of the Holy Spirit
4. **Fragrance**—add essential oil (hyssop) to leave a lasting fragrant aroma after the soap has cleansed away the filth

Hyssop



Hyssop Flower and Hyssop Essential Oil

Hyssop



Home-made Soap

Hyssop

Psalm 51:7, 10 (written by David after his sin with Bathsheba)

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ...

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me.

This is my prayer as well!