

Passover & Hyssop Comm Comm 130203

Part of my prayer regimen comes from Psalm 51, and includes vs 7 – “Cleanse me with **hyssop** and I will be **clean**; wash me, and I will be **whiter than snow...**”

Recently I wondered... “why do I use the part that mentions **hyssop**?” It is a plant that I’m not really familiar with. I decided to look at other times “hyssop” is mentioned in the Bible.

1. Connection to **Passover**: Rescue and Deliverance; Exodus 12:22; The Israelites used a “bunch of hyssop” to paint the doorframe as an outer sign
2. Hyssop used for other sacrifice activities (Lev and Num)
3. Verification of the covenant: Hyssop was used by Moses to sprinkle blood **on** the people after the law had been proclaimed to them, and Moses proclaimed, “**This is the blood of the covenant** that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words” Exodus 24:8; see also Hebrews 9:18

“**This is the blood of the covenant...**” Where have we heard this phrase before?

We know that Jesus’ Last Supper was a Passover feast: Matt 26:27-28 – “Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you. **This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**”

It is difficult to think of how blood, which stains so readily, can make us clean. But as John wrote in Revelation 7:14, “Our robes have been made white in the blood of the Lamb.”

In this memorial we see that the blood of Christ makes personal contact with us and verifies God’s covenant with us. It makes us clean in the sight of God.

There is one final poignant instance of hyssop:

4. It was used to bring vinegar to Jesus’ lips at the crucifixion (John 19:29). His body was thirsty because of the loss of blood; blood He was shedding for us. Let us celebrate both the body and the blood of Christ, given for us.