

## ~ASHES (350)

[Hebrew, *e'pher*, *de'shen*, Greek, *spo-dos'* ashes, *te-phro'o*, reduce to ashes]

- The term often employed in the Scriptures for the residue from the burning of materials, frequently having symbolic or figurative connotations. The word ashes renders two Hebrew words. One *e'pher*.
- And a clean man must gather up the **ashes** of the cow and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and they must serve the assembly of the sons of Israel as something to be kept for the water for cleansing. It is a sin offering. (**Numbers 19:9**)
- Is also translated powder.
- And you people will certainly tread down the wicked ones, for they will become as **powder** under the soles of your feet in the day on which I am acting, Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 4:3**)
- **De'shen**, besides denoting **fatty ashes**, may also refer to **fatness**.
- And he must remove its crop with its feathers and throw it beside the altar, to the east, to the place for the **fatty ashes**. (**Leviticus 1:16**)
- Why do you people keep paying out money for what is not bread, and why is your toil for what results in no satisfaction? Listen intently to me, and eat what is good, and let your soul find its exquisite delight in **fatness** itself. (**Isaiah 55:2**)
- The Greek noun *spo-dos'* means **ashes**.
- Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! Because if the powerful works had taken place in Tyre and Sidon that took place in you, they would long ago have repented in sackcloth and **ashes**. (**Matthew 11:21**)
- While the Greek verb *te-phro'o* means **reduce to ashes**.
- And by **reducing** the cities Sodom and Gomorrah **to ashes** he condemned them, setting a pattern for ungodly persons of things

to come. (2 Peter 2:6)

- The residue from burning could also be referred to as dust Hebrew *'a-phar'*.
- And they must take for the unclean one some of the **dust of the burning** of the sin offering and put running water upon it in a vessel. (Numbers 19:17)
- And the king went on to command Hilkiah the High Priest and the priests of the second rank and the doorkeepers to bring out from the temple of Yehowah all the utensils made for Baal and for the sacred pole and for all the army of the heavens. Then he burned them outside Jerusalem on the terraces of Kidron, and he brought **the dust of them** to Bethel. (2 Kings 23:4)
- Each day a Levitical priest removed the fatty **ashes** Hebrew *de'shen* resulting from the **burning of animal sacrifices upon the altar** and took them out to a clean place outside the camp.
- Command Aaron and his sons, saying; This is the Law of the burnt offering. The burnt offering will be on the hearth upon the altar all night long until the morning, and the fire of the altar will be kindled in it. (Leviticus 6:9)
- And the priest must clothe himself with his official dress of linen, and he will put the linen drawers on over his flesh. Then he must lift up the **fatty ashes** of the burnt offering that the fire regularly consumes upon the altar, and he must place them beside the altar. (Leviticus 6:10)
- And he must strip off his garments and put on other garments, and he must take the **fatty ashes** out to a clean place outside the camp. (Leviticus 6:11)
- According to (Numbers Chapter 19), a sound red cow without defect and upon which no yoke had come was also slaughtered and burned outside the camp. The **ashes** of this sin offering were deposited in a clean place outside the camp
- And a clean man must gather up the **ashes** of the cow and deposit them outside the camp in a clean place, and they must serve the assembly of the sons of Israel as something to be kept for the water for cleansing. It is a sin offering. (Numbers 19:9)

- And thus a portion was available for mixing with water to be sprinkled on unclean persons or things to purify them.
- And they must take for the unclean one some of the dust of the burning of the sin offering and put running water upon it in a vessel. (**Numbers 19:17**)
- The apostle Paul referred to the figurative cleansing of the flesh by **the ashes** Greek, *spo-dos'* of a heifer to highlight the far greater cleansing of **consciences from dead works** possible through the blood of the Christ.
- For if the blood of goats and of bulls and the **ashes** of a heifer sprinkled on those who have been defiled **sanctifies to the extent of cleanness of the flesh**. (**Hebrews 9:13**)
- How much more will the **blood of the Christ**, who through an everlasting spirit offered himself without blemish to God, **cleanse our consciences from dead works** that we may render sacred service to the living God? (**Hebrews 9:14**)
- And all the low plain of the carcasses and of the **fatty ashes**, and all the terraces as far as the torrent valley of Kidron, clear to the corner of the Horse Gate toward the sunrising, will be something holy to Yehowah. It will not be uprooted, neither will it be torn down anymore to time indefinite. (**Jeremiah 31:40**)
- Refers to the low plain of the **carcasses and of the fatty ashes** Hebrew *wehad-de'shen*, apparently a part of the valley of the son of Hinnom. Until relatively recent times a mound of **ashes** near the Kidron Valley was a familiar landmark. It is said to have been about 150 meters long, 60 meters wide, and 18 meters deep (490 × 200 × 60 feet) and is considered by some to relate to the place mentioned by Jeremiah. A part of the valley of the son of Hinnom could have been set aside for the disposal of **ashes** left after burning sacrifices
- He must have the entire bull taken out to the outskirts of the camp to a clean place where the fatty **ashes** are poured out, and he must burn it upon wood in the fire. Where the fatty ashes are poured out it should be burned. (**Leviticus 4:12**)
- Before Josiah made Topheth in the valley unfit for worship.

- And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the fire to Molech. (**2 Kings 23:10**)
- But **animal carcasses and the dead bodies of vile criminals** might also have been cast into the valley, and a mound there might even include the **ashes of humans** once sacrificed in false religious rites.
- Furthermore, they built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of the son of Hinnom, in order to make their sons and their daughters pass through the fire to Molech, a thing that I did not command them, neither did it come up into my heart to do this detestable thing, for the purpose of making Judah sin. (**Jeremiah 32:35**)
- In Biblical times it was customary to burn captured cities, so that **reducing a place to ashes** was indicative of its complete destruction, as is shown in the cases of Tyre, Sodom, and Gomorrah.
- Owing to the abundance of your errors, because of the injustice of your sales goods, you have profaned your sanctuaries. And I shall bring forth a fire from the midst of you. It is what must devour you. And I shall make you **ashes** upon the earth before the eyes of all those seeing you. (**Ezekiel 28:18**)
- And by **reducing the cities** Sodom and Gomorrah to **ashes** he condemned them, setting a pattern for ungodly persons of things to come. (**2 Peter 2:6**)
- **Ashes** also served as a figure of what was insignificant or valueless, Abraham acknowledging before Yehowah, for instance, **I am dust and ashes**.
- But Abraham went on to answer and say; Please, here I have taken upon myself to speak to Yehowah, whereas **I am dust and ashes**. (**Genesis 18:27**)
- He is **feeding on ashes**. His own heart that has been trifled with has led him astray. And he does not deliver his soul, nor does he say; Is there not a falsehood in my right hand? (**Isaiah 44:20**)
- He has brought me down to the clay, so that I show myself like **dust and ashes**. (**Job 30:19**)

- And Job likened the sayings of his false comforters to **proverbs of ashes**.
- Your memorable sayings are **proverbs of ashes**, your shield bosses are as shield bosses of clay. (**Job 13:12**)
- It was a practice in Biblical days to sit in **ashes** or to scatter them upon oneself in symbol of mourning, humiliation, and repentance.
- And Mordecai himself got knowledge of everything that had been done, and Mordecai proceeded to rip his garments apart and put on sackcloth and **ashes** and go out into the middle of the city and cry out with a loud and bitter outcry. (**Esther 4:1**)
- Finally he came as far as in front of the kings gate, for no one was to come into the kings gate in clothing of sackcloth. (**Esther 4:2**)
- And in all the different jurisdictional districts, wherever the kings word and his Law were reaching, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting and weeping and wailing. Sackcloth and **ashes** themselves came to be spread out as a couch for many. (**Esther 4:3**)
- O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth and wallow in the **ashes**. Make your mourning that for an only son, the wailing of bitterness, because suddenly the despoiler will come upon us. (**Jeremiah 6:26**)
- Then Tamar placed **ashes** upon her head, and the striped robe that was upon her she ripped apart, and she kept her hands put upon her head and went walking away, crying out as she walked. (**2 Samuel 13:19**)
- **Deep misery and affliction are figuratively linked with the eating of ashes**
- For I have **eaten ashes** themselves just like bread, and the things I drink I have mingled even with weeping. (**Psalms 102:9**)
- And afflicted Job sat **in among the ashes**.
- And he proceeded to take for himself a fragment of earthenware with which to scrape himself, and **he was sitting in among the**

**ashes. (Job 2:8)**

- **Sackcloth and ashes** were sometimes associated **with fasting, weeping, or sorrow.**
- And in all the different jurisdictional districts, wherever the king's word and his Law were reaching, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting and weeping and wailing. **Sackcloth and ashes** themselves came to be spread out as a couch for many. (**Esther 4:3**)
- Should the fast that I choose become like this, as a day for earthling man to afflict his soul? For bowing down his head just like a rush, and that he should spread out mere **sackcloth and ashes** as his couch? Is it this that you call a fast and a day acceptable to Yehowah? (**Isaiah 58:5**)
- And over you they will certainly let themselves be heard with their voice and will cry out bitterly. And they will bring up dust upon their heads. In the **ashes** they will wallow. (**Ezekiel 27:30**)
- And they will have to make themselves bald with a baldness for you, and gird on **sackcloth and weep over you** in bitterness of soul, with bitter wailing. (**Ezekiel 27:31**)
- And I proceeded to set my face to Yehowah the true God, in order to seek him with prayer and with entreaties, with fasting and **sackcloth and ashes.** (**Daniel 9:3**)
- A national example of humiliation and repentance is furnished in the case of Nineveh in Jonah's day, even her king covering himself with sackcloth **and sitting down in the ashes.**
- And the men of Nineveh began to put faith in God, and they proceeded to proclaim a fast and to put on sackcloth, from the greatest one of them even to the least one of them. (**Jonah 3:5**)
- When the word reached the king of Nineveh, then he rose up from his throne and put off his official garment from himself and covered himself with sackcloth and **sat down in the ashes.** (**Jonah 3:6**)
- Repenting in **sackcloth and ashes** was a circumstance referred to by Jesus Christ.

- **Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! Because if the powerful works had taken place in Tyre and Sidon that took place in you, they would long ago have repented in **sackcloth and ashes**. (Matthew 11:21)**
- **And in answering Yehowah, Job contritely declared: I do repent in **dust and ashes**.**
- **That is why I make a retraction, and I do repent in **dust and ashes**. (Job 42:6)**
- **During the 70-year desolation of Judah, the Jews in Babylon mourned over the desolation of Zion or Jerusalem and its temple. But through Isaiah assurance had been given that under the power of Yehowah's spirit there would be action to assign to those mourning over Zion, to give them a **headdress instead of ashes**. Jesus Christ applied the passage of**
- **The spirit of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah is upon me, for the reason that Yehowah has anointed me to tell Good News to the meek ones. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to those taken captive and the wide opening of the eyes even to the prisoners. (Isaiah 61:1)**
- **To proclaim the year of goodwill on the part of Yehowah and the day of vengeance on the part of our God, to comfort all the mourning ones. (Isaiah 61:2)**
- **To assign to those mourning over Zion, **to give them a headdress instead of ashes**, the oil of exultation instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of the downhearted spirit, and they must be called big trees of righteousness, the planting of Yehowah, for him to be beautified. (Isaiah 61:3)**
- **To himself as the Messianic Liberator who would be instrumental in relieving greater spiritual desolation and mourning.**
- **And he came to Nazareth, where he had been reared, and, according to his custom on the Sabbath day, he entered into the synagogue, and he stood up to read. (Luke 4:16)**
- **So the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, and he opened the scroll and found the place where it was written:**

**(Luke 4:17)**

- **Yehowah's spirit is upon me, because he anointed me to declare Good News to the poor, he sent me forth to preach a release to the captives and a recovery of sight to the blind, to send the crushed one's away with a release. (Luke 4:18)**
- **To preach Yehowah's acceptable year. (Luke 4:19)**
- **With that he rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue were intently fixed upon him. (Luke 4:20)**
- **Then he started to say to them: Today this scripture that you just heard is fulfilled. (Luke 4:21)**
- **It was also foretold that the wicked would become like pulverized, powdery ashes to the righteous, for Malachi wrote: And you people will certainly tread down the wicked ones, for they will become as powder Hebrew 'e'pher under the soles of your feet in the day on which I am acting, Yehowah of armies has said.**
- **And you people will certainly tread down the wicked ones, for they will become as powder under the soles of your feet in the day on which I am acting, Yehowah of armies has said. (Malachi 4:3)**