

## ~HYSSOP (177)

[Hebrew, 'e-zohv', Greek, hys'so-pos]

- The exact identification of **hyssop** is uncertain. The **Hebrew** and **Greek** terms may, in fact, embrace several different kinds of plants.
- Some modern scholars say that the **hyssop** of the Hebrew Scriptures is probably marjoram, *Origanum maru*. This plant of the mint family is common in Palestine.
- Under favorable conditions it attains a height of 0.5 to 0.9 meters (1.5 to 3 feet). Its branches and thick leaves are hairy, and as indicated at;
- And he would speak about the trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the **hyssop** that is coming forth on the wall, and he would speak about the beasts and about the flying creatures and about the moving things and about the fishes. (1 **Kings** 4:33)
- It can be found growing in rock crevices and on walls.
- **Hyssop** was used by the Israelites in Egypt to splash the blood of the Passover victim on the two doorposts and the upper part of the doorway of their houses.
- Promptly Moses called all the older men of Israel and said to them; Draw out and take for yourselves small cattle according to your families, and slaughter the Passover victim. (**Exodus** 12:21)
- And you must take a bunch of **hyssop** and dip it into the blood in a basin and strike upon the upper part of the doorway and upon the two doorposts some of the blood that is in the basin, and none of you should go out of the entrance of his house until morning. (**Exodus** 12:22)
- At the inauguration of the Law covenant, Moses employed **hyssop** in sprinkling the book of the Law and the people.
- For when every commandment according to the Law had been spoken by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of the young bulls and of the goats with water and scarlet wool and **hyssop** and sprinkled the book itself and all the people. (**Hebrews** 9:19)

- **Hyssop** also figured in the cleansing ceremony for persons or houses previously infected with leprosy
- This will become the Law of the leper in the day for establishing his purification, when he must be brought to the priest. (**Leviticus 14:2**)
- And the priest must go forth outside the camp, and the priest must look, and if the plague of leprosy has been cured in the leprous one. (**Leviticus 14:3**)
- The priest must then give command, and he must take for cleansing himself two live clean birds and cedar wood and coccus scarlet material and **hyssop**. (**Leviticus 14:4**)
- And the priest must give command, and the one bird must be killed in an earthenware vessel over running water. (**Leviticus 14:5**)
- As for the living bird, he should take it and the cedar wood and the coccus scarlet material and the **hyssop**, and he must dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water. (**Leviticus 14:6**)
- Then he must spatter it seven times upon the one cleansing himself from the leprosy and he must pronounce him clean, and he must send away the living bird over the open field. (**Leviticus 14:7**)
- However, if the priest comes at all and he does take a look, and, there now, the plague has not spread in the house after having plastered the house, the priest must then pronounce the house clean, because the plague has been healed. (**Leviticus 14:48**)
- And to purify the house from sin he must take two birds and cedar wood and coccus scarlet material and **hyssop**. (**Leviticus 14:49**)
- And he must kill the one bird in an earthenware vessel over running water. (**Leviticus 14:50**)
- And he must take the cedar wood and the **hyssop** and the coccus scarlet material and the live bird and dip them in the blood of the

bird that was killed and in the running water, and he must spatter it toward the house seven times. (**Leviticus 14:51**)

- And he must purify the house from sin with the blood of the bird and the running water and the live bird and the cedar wood and the **hyssop** and the coccus scarlet material. (**Leviticus 14:52**)
- And he must send the live bird away outside the city into the open field and must make atonement for the house, and it must be clean. (**Leviticus 14:53**)
- And in the preparation of the ashes to be used in the water for cleansing, as well as in the spattering of this water on certain things and persons.
- And the priest must take cedarwood and **hyssop** and coccus scarlet material and throw it into the midst of the burning of the cow. (**Numbers 19:6**)
- 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**)
- Then a clean man must take **hyssop** and dip it into the water and spatter it upon the tent and all the vessels and the souls that happened to be there and upon the one who touched the bone or the slain one or the corpse or the burial place. (**Numbers 19:18**)
- David thus appropriately prayed to be purified from sin with **hyssop**.
- May you purify me from sin with **hyssop**, that I may be clean, may you wash me, that I may become whiter even than snow. (**Psalms 51:7**)

**See Also CLEAN, CLEANNESS (Leprosy)**

- The **hyssop** mentioned in connection with Jesus Christ's impalement.
- A vessel was sitting there full of sour wine. Therefore they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a **hyssop stalk** and brought it to his mouth. (**John 19:29**)

- Is thought by some to refer to durra, or Indian millet, a variety of common sorghum, *Sorghum vulgare*. It is a tall, small-grained plant with long, broad leaves.
- Since this plant commonly attains a height of at least 1.8 meters (6 feet) in Palestine, it could have provided a stalk, or reed, of sufficient length to convey the sponge of sour wine to Jesus mouth.
- And immediately one of them ran and took a sponge and soaked it with sour wine and put it on a reed and went giving him a drink. (Matthew 27:48)
- But a certain one ran, soaked a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed, and began giving him a drink, saying; Let him be! Let us see whether Elijah comes to take him down. (Mark 15:36)
- Others think that even in this case **hyssop** may be marjoram and suggest that a bunch of marjoram may have been attached to the reed mentioned by Matthew and Mark. Still another view is that;
- A vessel was sitting there full of sour wine. Therefore they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a **hyssop** stalk and brought it to his mouth. (John 19:29)
- Originally read *hys-soi'*, pike, javelin, not *hys-so'poi*, **hyssop**, hence the renderings **on a pike AT** and **on a spear Mo**