

Importance of Hyssop [based on Psalm 51:7]

Grab

How good are you at identifying plants? Can anyone tell me what this picture is of?

- Daffodil
- Tulip
- Sunflower
- Rose
- Hyssop

Hyssop is a really important plant in the Bible, and I want to tell you why.

Hit

In the Bible, we read that King David asked God to cleanse him with hyssop and this will make him clean.

“Cleanse me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7)

He said these words after acknowledging to God that he was a sinner and that he had committed the most awful of sins, and was asking God’s for his forgiveness. How could hyssop make David clean, how could a branch from a tree bring about God’s forgiveness?

The Bible tells us the answer. The first time hyssop is mentioned in the Bible is in the Old Testament in Exodus 12:22.

Moses told the people of Israel to take a bunch of hyssop, dip it in the blood of the Passover lamb and put the blood on the door frames of their homes, so that they could be kept safe under the blood of the lamb when God’s judgment came.

Hyssop points back to a sacrifice that covers up sin and makes a sinner clean, it points to a substitute for a sinner.

But the Old Testament Passover lamb and sacrificial system could not get rid of David’s sin. There must be a better sacrifice, one that could removed David’s sin and make him clean.

Hyssop points us forward to the better sacrifice, a substitute for sinners, one that can remove the sin and make a sinner clean.

The first time hyssop is mentioned in the New Testament is in John 19:29. Jesus is on the cross, and this is what happened... *“A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit”.*

Here we find the better sacrifice. The Lord Jesus Christ whose death as a substitute for sinners is one that can remove sin and make a sinner clean, so that they no longer face the punishment of hell and instead spend eternity with Jesus their Saviour.

Hyssop points us to the Lord Jesus whose death will clean the stain of sin in our lives if we trust him as Lord and Saviour.