

Numbers 19:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the priest shall take cedar wood, and hyssop, and scarlet, and cast it into the midst of the burning of the heifer.

Analysis

Cedar wood, hyssop, and scarlet were cast into the burning heifer. Each element had symbolic significance: cedar for durability/incorruption, hyssop for cleansing (Psalm 51:7), scarlet possibly for blood/sin. These additions transformed the ashes into powerful purification agent. Multiple symbolic elements combined to address death's multifaceted pollution.

Historical Context

Hyssop was used in the original Passover (Exodus 12:22) and in cleansing leprosy (Leviticus 14:4), connecting this ritual to other major cleansing/redemption events. The consistency of these symbols throughout Scripture demonstrates unified theology of purification across diverse ceremonies.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do diverse elements of Christ's work (incarnation, life, death, resurrection) combine for complete salvation?

2. What symbols or reminders help you appreciate the comprehensiveness of Christ's cleansing?

Interlinear Text

וְלֹקַח תִּלְקַח	וְשָׂתֵּן יְאַזֵּב	עַזְבֵּת הַכֶּתֶב	וְעַזְבֵּת הַכֶּתֶב					
shall take	And the priest	wood	cedar	and hyssop		H8144	and scarlet	
H3947	H3548	H6086	H730	H231			H8438	

בְּפֶרְהָה:	שְׁרֵפָת	תַּזְרִיר	אֶל	וְהַשְּׁלֵין
and cast	H413	it into the midst	of the burning	of the heifer

Additional Cross-References

Leviticus 14:4 (Parallel theme): Then shall the priest command to take for him that is to be cleansed two birds alive and clean, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:

Psalms 51:7 (Parallel theme): Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Leviticus 14:6 (Parallel theme): As for the living bird, he shall take it, and the cedar wood, and the scarlet, and the hyssop, and shall dip them and the living bird in the blood of the bird that was killed over the running water:

Leviticus 14:49 (Parallel theme): And he shall take to cleanse the house two birds, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop:

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