

Wash me and I shall be Whiter than Snow - 8 August 2014, Anno Domini



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

Job asks some intriguing questions among which are these: *"Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow? or hast thou seen the treasures of the hail, Which I have reserved against the time of trouble, against the day of battle and war? By what way is the light parted, which scattereth the east wind upon the earth?"* (Job 38:22-24) God loves to relate His mysteries to us through the medium of His natural Creation. The phenomenon that I wish to emphasize in this devotion is the Treasures of the Snow, that is, the nature of snow, its formation, and how God relates it to our salvation in Christ; but first, let us examine the nature of hyssop.

God has told us in the 7th verse of the 51st Psalm the process by which we are made to appear clean and righteous before God. It is a double featured process. He cleanses our inward soul first, and then our outward being. Though hyssop is sometimes used to denote an outward application of cleansing (as in Leviticus 14:1-7 & Numbers 19:1-19), the Psalmist has another cleansing in mind for this particular verse of Psalm 51. David is concerned with the cleansing of the unseen filth which lies hidden in the heart of man – even in his own heart. Just as the in the purification of the leper and offering of the red heifer as mentioned in Leviticus and Numbers, the hyssop was dipped in blood and water to apply. The application of the blood and water is figurative to the washing away of sin from the heart. *"...the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."* (1 John 1:7) The Blood and Water of old represent the cleansing Blood of Christ in His sacrifice for us and the efficacy of His Word. The Water represents the WORD. *"...he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word."* (Eph 5:26) You will note that this cleansing is of an inward nature, and not of the outward form. That is the purpose of the plant herb, hyssop. It is a purgative that cleanses the intestinal tract of unhealthful waste products (which sin is.)

So, God cleanses our inward being before we appear clean without in our outward appearance. If we are cleansed inwardly, our outward appearance and conduct will reflect that sanctified inward nature.... *"Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean!"*

Now we come to the outward cleansing that results in our being whiter than snow. Perhaps you may wonder, "How can anything be whiter than snow since snow is one of the whitest compounds known to man?" The answer to that question lies in the manner in which snow is formed. First of all, it is formed high in the heavens – in the upper atmosphere. Our salvation also begins in the highest of heavens. Water vapors begin to condense around some particle of dust, smoke, or sand. A solid substance is necessary for that condensation to take place just as dew forms on blades of grass or leaves. As the water droplets formed from that condensation rise to high altitudes in the atmosphere, they are cooled to the point of forming ice crystals. The secret of every snowflake is that, at the center of each, is a tiny particle of impurity around which that snowflake formed. Regardless of our outward appearance of righteousness, there remains in the heart of man some impurity at his core. But when we are purged first by the blood of Christ, that inward impurity is neutralized by His imputed righteousness and imputed purity. We are clean both inside and outside.

The spiritual properties of snow are scattered throughout God's Word. The connotation is always of cleanliness and holiness. There are four major areas in which SNOW represents the divine and spiritual:

I. GOD'S POWER:

"God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth." (Job 37:5-6)

II. THE WORD OF GOD:

"For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:10-11)

III. HOLINESS AND PURITY: *"His countenance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow." (Matt 28:3) "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire." (Rev 1:14)*

IV. THE SOUL CLEANSED: *"...me, and I shall be whiter than snow." (Psalms 51:7b) & "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool." (Isaiah 1:18)*

We are incapable of both purging and washing ourselves. We cannot command the snows, and we cannot cause hyssop to grow without the natural resources that God has provided. So we are also totally dependent upon the Blood (inward purge) of Jesus and the outward sanctification (washing of water – or snow) to make us clean before God. Our outward actions will be determined by our inward values that derive from the Holy Ghost indwelling the deep chambers of our hearts.

Being dead in trespasses and sin, it is just as impossible for us to revive from that sleep of spiritual death as it is impossible for a dead man to return to life in the body. (Eph 2) Our souls need to be separated from the mud and grime of the world, wafted on high by the winds of God, and cleansed by the crystallized formation of the snows of heaven. The blood of Christ cleanseth from all sins!

Is there snow in your forecast?