

Title: “The Hyssop Branch”

There’s a small detail at the cross that most people read right past.

In **Gospel of John 19:29**, it says that when Jesus was thirsty, they lifted a sponge of sour wine to Him... on a branch of hyssop.

Hyssop.

Not a spear.

Not a random stick.

Hyssop.

Now if you go back to **Book of Exodus 12:22**, you’ll find that same plant in the hands of the Israelites on the night of Passover. God told them to take hyssop, dip it in the blood of the lamb, and apply it to their doorposts—so when judgment came, it would pass over them.

Hyssop was the applicator of the blood.

Later, in the laws of cleansing—**Book of Leviticus 14** and **Book of Numbers 19**—hyssop was used again. It became a symbol of purification. That’s why **Book of Psalms 51:7** records David crying out, “*Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean.*”

So when John tells us that hyssop showed up at the cross, he’s not giving us a random detail—he’s ringing a bell that echoes all the way back through Scripture.

Because at that moment, Jesus was becoming the Lamb.

As **First Epistle to the Corinthians 5:7** says, “*Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.*”

The same plant used to apply the blood...
is present when the blood is being shed.

A Short Story

Imagine an old Jewish man standing at the foot of the cross that day.
He had kept Passover his whole life.

As a boy, he watched his father take hyssop, dip it into lamb's blood,
and mark the door. His father told him, "When God sees the blood,
He will pass over us."

Year after year, he repeated the ritual. Lamb after lamb. Blood after
blood.

But now he's standing there, watching Jesus.

He sees the soldiers lift that sponge on hyssop.

And something clicks.

That plant... that's the same one.

He looks up at Jesus, bleeding.

And for the first time in his life, he realizes—

This isn't just another Passover... this is the Passover.

No more yearly lambs.

No more repeated sacrifices.

The Lamb is here.

And the blood isn't going on a door anymore...

It's being applied to the world.

The Final Cup

At the Last Supper, Jesus spoke of the cup. In the Passover tradition,
there were four cups: sanctification, deliverance, redemption, and
praise.

Many believe Jesus paused before the final cup.

And here—at the cross—when He received the wine...
He completed it.

Then He said, “*It is finished.*”

Not “I am finished.”

But **it**—the plan, the system, the long story of redemption—
finished.

The Message

Hyssop tells us something powerful:

The cross was not an accident.

It was not a tragedy.

It was a plan—woven through generations.

From Egypt...

to the law...

to David’s prayer...

to Calvary...

God was telling one story:

The Lamb is coming.

The blood will be applied.

Deliverance will be complete.

Closing Thought

Back in Egypt, the people had to apply the blood themselves.

But at the cross...

God applied it for you.

You don’t have to earn it.

You don't have to repeat it.

You don't have to wonder if it's enough.

Because when Jesus said, "*It is finished,*"

He meant—

It is finished.