

## Elder Vernon Johnson

### Colors

#### Scarlet Thread or Line

There is a very strong correlation in the scriptures between the color red and the subject of war, blood, and judgment. Scarlet is a shade of red. It was a dye made from an insect or worm. Threads colored by this dye were used in combination with blue threads, purple threads and white linen threads and sometimes-thin gold strips to make the various garments of the High Priest, the curtains of the tabernacle, the veil of the tabernacle and various coverings used in the tabernacle.

Scarlet was also used in the ceremonial cleansing of the leper and of the cleansing of houses plagued with leprosy:

1. Lev. 14:3 "And the priest shall go forth out of the camp; and the priest shall look, and, behold, if the plague of leprosy be healed in the leper; 4 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: 5 And the priest shall command that one of the birds be killed in an earthen vessel over running water: 6 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: 7 And he shall sprinkle upon him that is to be cleansed from the leprosy seven times, and shall pronounce him clean, and shall let the living bird loose into the open field."

2. Lev. 14:48 "And if the priest shall come in, and look upon it, and, behold, the plague hath not spread in the house, after the house was plastered: then the priest shall pronounce the house clean, because the plague is healed. 49 And he shall take to cleanse the house two birds, and cedar wood, and scarlet, and hyssop: 50 And he shall kill the one of the birds in an earthen vessel over running water: 51 And he shall take the cedar wood, and the hyssop, and the scarlet, and the living bird, and dip them in the blood of the slain bird, and in the running water, and sprinkle the house seven times: 52 And he shall cleanse the house with the blood of the bird, and with the running water, and with the living bird, and with the cedar wood, and with the hyssop, and with the scarlet: 53 But he shall let go the living bird out of the city into the open fields, and make an atonement for the house: and it shall be clean."

The leper and the plague of leprosy is typical of the sinner and the plague of sin in the scriptures. The house plagued with leprosy is typical of the condition of the house of God needing to be cleansed from sin.

Most people recognize in this ceremonial cleansing the significance of the living bird and the sacrificed bird. The sacrificed bird is typical of Jesus Christ. The living bird that is let free is typical of God's elect people. However, what most people do not see is the significance of the cedar wood, the scarlet, the hyssop and the running water. While our current study is on the significance of scarlet, yet running water is typical of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38, 39). Cedar wood is typical of the kingdom of God and hyssop was used to sprinkle the blood (a work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration). Scarlet is typical of the cleansing blood of Christ. The following New Testament verses show forth these principles:

1. Heb. 9:19 "For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, 20 Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you. 21 Moreover he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle, and all the vessels of the ministry. 22 And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. 23 It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these."
2. Rev. 1:5, 6 "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."
3. Titus 3:4-6 "But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;"
4. 1 Pet 1:1 "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."
5. Col. 1:12-14 "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the

power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

In the above, we see the Holy Spirit applying (hyssop) the blood of Christ (scarlet) in regeneration to the elect child of God. In this work, we see ourselves translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of his dear Son (cedar wood). Jesus Christ (sacrificed bird) through his sacrificial atonement has sprinkled his blood on the elect child of God (living bird) and he goes free from the judicial guiltiness of sin.

When the Israelite spies sent by Joshua were sent to spy out the city of Jericho, a harlot by the name of Rahab hid the spies on the housetop as the men of the city sought after them to kill them. Rahab's house was by the wall of the city and she let down the spies by a scarlet line so that they might escape. The spies made a covenant with Rahab that she and all that were in their house would be spared from the destruction of Jericho. The scarlet line was a token of that covenant. The judgment of God was on the city of Jericho to destroy it. Yet, through a covenant, Rahab and her household were spared from the judgmental destruction of Jericho.

The above is typical of the elect children of God. We are spared from the judicial destruction of God's wrathful judgment against sin because of a covenant that God made before the world began: Rom. 8:29, 30: "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." There is no longer a charge that can rightfully be laid against us before God: Rom. 8:33, 34 "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."

The blood of this everlasting covenant covers (scarlet line) every one of the elect family of God. Is. 1:18 "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." Our sins are covered by the scarlet blood of Christ and now we are judicially as white as snow.

Finally, when Tamar had twins of Judah we read of their birth: Gen. 38:27 "And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb. 28 And it came to pass, when she travailed, that the one put out his hand: and the

midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first. 29 And it came to pass, as he drew back his hand, that, behold, his brother came out: and she said, How hast thou broken forth? this breach be upon thee: therefore his name was called Pharez. 30 And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah."

In judgment, human reason would have the sinner to be judged first. However, we, as the elect of God, have an elder brother. Our elder brother bore our judgment for us. Afterwards he arose from the grave, victorious over sin, Satan, death, hell, and the grave. He is the firstborn among many brethren (Rom. 8:29) and the firstfruits of them that slept: 1 Cor. 15:20 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming." In the proper order Christ is as Pharez and we are as Zarah. We have the scarlet thread on our hand.