

Smoke in the Bible

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What does smoke symbolize in the Bible? (Biblical Symbolism and Meaning)

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While I was at my Bible study sessions, we revised several chapters in the Bible. I learned a lot about how God portrays Himself to His people in a variety of ways. One of these ways is by using smoke. Smoke is mentioned several times in the Bible and appears in dreams in different forms. All this information led me to the question, “What does smoke symbolize in the Bible?”

Nahum 12:3 implies that smoke is used as a symbolic representation of judgment to show the fate of those who will be judged and found guilty. Smoke is also used to signify worship as the sacrifices are done, and the smoke ascends into heaven. It is also used to symbolize God’s presence in a place.

In this article, I will take you through what the Bible says about smoke and its symbolic meaning in the Bible. Join me as we also go through its symbolic meaning in dreams, art, and literature and the colours in which smoke appears in dreams. Read along to find more information about the mentioned

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1. What does the Bible say about smoke?

There are several things the Bible says about smoke. For instance, in Revelation 9:2, smoke is seen rising from the abyss. We see that **smoke was used in the Bible to mean judgment as a form of punishment for the wicked during the end times**. The Bible also talks a lot about smoking as **a symbol of sacrifice**. It is also mentioned in the Bible as a symbol of **destruction**, as indicated in Isaiah 34:10. The Bible mentions the smoke that covered Mount Sinai. This shows that God's presence was in that place.

2. Meaning of smoke in Hebrew

Depending on the context, the word 'Ashan,' which means smoke, can be used as a representation of several things. This word appears in the Hebrew Bible to represent a variety of things based on the context. For instance, it may have the **literal meaning of vapour**, as seen in Joshua 8:20. It may also have **a symbolic meaning**, referring to something else. An example may be to symbolize God's presence and judgment.

3. Bible verses about smoke

Several verses speak about smoke, and each verse is used in a different context. Some of these Bible verses include:

2 Samuel 22:9: In this Bible verse, smoke here is used to show God's wrath when he came to judge the people who are perverse and wicked.

Isaiah 34:10: The smoke mentioned in this verse is used to mean the punishment that is administered to the wicked nations and will persist from one generation to the next.

Job 41:20: In this verse, smoke is used to show that he is more daring and bolder than any other creature to ever exist.

Psalms 119:83: The word smoke has been used here to show the way the psalmist was uncomfortable in the condition that he was in.

Revelation 14:11: This verse talks about the torture that will persist for non-believers as they will not rest as they keep worshipping other gods.

Revelation 15:8: In this verse, smoke is seen filling the temple to signify God's presence and show his power. No person was able to gain access to the area showing how powerful He is.

Hosea 13:3: This verse talks about God's warning to His people that whatever their faults are, as a nation, they must lose their priestly character, and salvation is only found in Him and no one else.

Deuteronomy 29:20 talks about how the Lord will never forgive the sinner, and He will execute His wrath against him. Smoke is used in this context to show God's wrath on the sinner who turned away from Him.

Acts 2:19: In this verse, the Holy Spirit comes to show its presence and equip the Jews to spread the news that sinners are reconciled and forgiven by Jesus.

Isaiah 51:6 talks about God's salvation and righteousness that will last forever, unlike the world and people who will eventually vanish. Smoke is used in this context to refer to something temporary.

Isaiah 65:5: God speaks in this verse to refer to those who rebel against Him by doing profane things like being blasphemous.

Nahum 2:13: In this verse, smoke is mentioned as a sign of God's wrath as a form of judgment that is bestowed upon Nineveh.

Psalms 37:20: This verse talks about how sinners will be destroyed and no sinner will be spared since they are both the enemy of the Lord and His people. The smoke here is used as a symbol of destruction that will be upon sinners.

4. What does smoke represent in the Bible?

God associates smoke with **judgment**, as per the book of Nahum 12:3. Smoke is also a clear **image of the fate of those who will be judged and found guilty**. As per Psalms 37:20, we are assured by David that the wicked shall perish like smoke. Smoke disperses, ascends, and is short-lived. We also see that **God's judgment will come to an end**, as it is short-lived, as written in Isaiah 10:25. In Psalms 102:3, smoke is used as a symbol of man's days on earth. As the smoke ascends and disappears, man's life also does the same.

Smoke in the Bible is also used as a sign of worship. This was done by offering sacrifices in which smoke rose from the offerings after they were burned. It is also a representation of prayer to God or a deity. Smoke may also be used to represent God's wrath, as seen in Psalm 18:8. Smoke is also used by God to represent himself, like the way He represented himself in the smouldering mountain.

5. Spiritual meaning of smoke

There are several spiritual meanings for smoke. One of them is **transformation and change**. **In a tale, when smoke is observed, it means that a significant event will occur**. Any alteration, whether it's for a good or bad cause, may be represented by smoke. It may be a physical, spiritual, or emotional alteration.

Smoke may also be an indication of a spiritual awakening in a person. As seen in various cultural and religious contexts, after death, the soul's transition is indicated by smoke as a journey. A good example is the funeral practices of the Vikings. Smoke is also used to signify **purification**. An example of this is how Taoist monks use smoke to purify themselves.

It can also be used to signify the closeness of a guardian angel. Several passages in the Bible speak about angels. For instance, it is stated in the Bible that when an angel visited Manoah and prophesied about the birth of Samson, he ascended into heaven, followed by a cloud of smoke. Smoke can also be used to mean **conversation with God**. It is a way for God to show you that your path has been difficult, but you have been able to overcome it because you have been brave enough.

Smoke is also used to mean the **establishment and awakening of a connection with the divine**. The rising of someone's prayers and thoughts is represented by smoke. The Bible has some allusions that depict this. In many religious ceremonies, smoke was **a gift to the gods** and a common component.

6. Five Symbolic meanings of smoke in the Bible

The Bible tells us a lot of things about smoke. The meaning of smoke in the Bible will vary based on the context. Some of the symbolic meanings of smoke in the Bible include:

A Servant's Prayer to God

The Bible states that the Lord's angel appeared and stated that God heard the prayer of Zechariah when he offered incense at the temple, representing a prayer before God. **The smoke rose to heaven as a message to God.**

Worship

In the Old Testament, worship was based on the offering of sacrifices. After the priests put the sacrifices in the fire to burn, **smoke rose from the offerings, which represented worship**. It was a way of thanking God for taking his people out of Egypt and into a land that was flowing with honey and milk.

Anger

In Job 41:10, we see that smoke comes from God's nostrils. The meaning here may be used as an indication of anger. "Ashan" is the Hebrew word for smoke in the book of Job, **which means to be furious or to be angry**.

Kingdom of God

In Exodus, the word smoke is used in the context that it is a way for God to represent Himself to His people. The psalmist states that smoking was an important process to give the wineskin flexibility and durability. So, we can conclude that smoke was used as an agent to give men flexibility and durability. **This speaks of exposure to the presence and glory of God.**

Divine Will

The Bible portrays smoke as the divine will of a servant to grow and help people by spreading the goodness of God and aiding them in having the same feeling. Some interpreters also state that smoke is used as a representation of connection with divine realms.

7. What do different colours of smoke mean?

White smoke's biblical meaning

In the Bible, white smoke is usually linked with the Holy Spirit as per its biblical concept. The Bible uses a cloud of white smoke to symbolize the **presence of the Holy Spirit**. In the book of

Exodus 19:18, during the revelation of God's law to Moses, Mount Sinai is covered by white smoke. This can be termed a gentle reminder to keep focusing on God and to reminisce about his covenant and promises with us. White smoke in a dream may represent the **release of negative energy** by cleansing the soul.

Black smoke's biblical meaning

Revelation 9:2 talks about smoke coming from the shaft of the abyss after it has been opened, and the sky is darkened by the smoke. Some interpreters see this as **a literal judgment**. The judgment of this revelation is **God's way of illustrating the severity of His wrath and the extent of His holiness**. Thick, dark smoke is used as imagery in various ways in the Old Testament to show **how God deals with sinful people**.

Grey smoke has biblical meaning (???)

Grey smoke is a sign of positive change and good fortune. It can also indicate that you are going through a **spiritual awakening**. Grey smoke might also be a sign that **your soul is ready to carry on, but you are not ready to let go**.

The Vapour of smoke: biblical meaning

James 4:14 talks about not knowing what tomorrow will bring since we are only going to be alive for a short period. James uses the term 'mist that appears for a little time' to mean vapour. **Vapour is used in this context to show uncertainty in the future**. This reminds us to seek the salvation of the Lord.

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