

Baptism of Fire

Come on in; the fire's great!

God's not done with you.
May His kindness lead you to repentance.

To everyone who is victorious I will give fruit from the tree of life in the paradise of God.

Whoever is victorious will not be harmed by the second death.

To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven.

To all who are victorious, who obey me to the very end To them I will give authority over all the nations.

All who are victorious will be clothed in white. I will never erase their names from the Book of Life, but I will announce before my Father and his angels that they are mine.

All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.

But He also says

“But I have this complaint against you. You don't love me or each other as you did at first!^[b] 5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches.

a“I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead.² Wake up! Strengthen what little remains, for even what is left is almost dead.

You say, 'I am rich. I have everything I want. I don't need a thing!' And you don't realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. ¹⁸ So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire.

It's not just for your benefit! It's for the sake of the world.

But in order for us to step into these plans He has for us, we need God's fire!

Do you have any idea what's going on in the world today?

It's all spiraling into chaos and death!

The last thing the world needs right now is a self indulgent people.

Beware of the lure of Mystery Babylon! Beware the snare of the rich young ruler! The only thing that Christ and the Anti-Christ agrees on is a self-indulgent people are disgusting.

Embrace the fire of God!

John the Baptist says of Jesus in Matt 3:11 "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."

Jesus says in Luke 12:49 "I have come to set the world on fire, and I wish it were already burning!"

But what does that mean? And what is the baptism of fire?

IF you do a word search on fire in the bible as it relates to God, you will see it

Deals with sin

Refines what is holy

Accepts a sacrifice

And Reveals the Glory of God

Deals with Sin

The very idea of sacrifices.

OT Judgement

Lake of Fire

Matt 3:11-12

I baptize with^[d] water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.^[e] ¹² He is ready to separate the chaff from the wheat with his winnowing fork. Then he will clean up the threshing area, gathering the wheat into his barn but burning the chaff with never-ending fire."

Wheat and the tares.

Unless a branch produces good fruit.

2 Peter 3:10

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.^[a]

Often we have the wrong idea of judgement.

God is love. Sin separates us from God. Judgement gets rid of sin.

Judgment makes way for love!

Refines what is holy

Zechariah 13:9

I will bring that group through the fire

and make them pure.

I will refine them like silver

and purify them like gold.

They will call on my name,

and I will answer them.

I will say, 'These are my people,'

and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'"

Isaiah 48:10

I have refined you, but not as silver is refined.

Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.

Malachi 3:2

²“But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal, or like a strong soap that bleaches clothes. ³He will sit like a refiner of silver, burning away the dross. He will purify the Levites, refining

them like gold and silver, so that they may once again offer acceptable sacrifices to the LORD.

Accepts a sacrifice

Mt Carmel

Lev 9:22-24

22 After that, Aaron raised his hands toward the people and blessed them. Then, after presenting the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering, he stepped down from the altar. 23 Then Moses and Aaron went into the Tabernacle, and when they came back out, they blessed the people again, and the glory of the LORD appeared to the whole community. 24 Fire blazed forth from the LORD's presence and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When the people saw this, they shouted with joy and fell face down on the ground.

The same thing happened in 2 Chron 7 when Solomon dedicated the Temple

When Solomon finished praying, fire flashed down from heaven and burned up the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and the glorious presence of the LORD filled the Temple.² The priests could not enter the Temple of the LORD because the glorious presence of the LORD filled it. ³ When all the people of Israel saw the fire coming down and the glorious presence of the LORD filling the Temple, they fell face down on the ground and worshiped and praised the LORD, saying,

“He is good!

His faithful love endures forever!”

Reveals the Glory of God

Mountain

Bush

Shekina

Pillar

Quite often the fire of God does all of these things and that is what we need.

Deals with sin, refines what is holy, accepts a sacrifice, and reveals the glory of God. Even the lake of fire may be the glory of God!

Think about the dedication of the temple and mount carmel.

The fire of God comes in 3 forms.

It comes in part as external pressure

In part as internal conviction

And in fullness in final judgement

Let's look at Jeshua in the book of Zechariah.

Tell backdrop.

God has a 3 fold destiny for them!

Zechariah 8:1-3

Then another message came to me from the LORD of Heaven's Armies: 2
"This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: My love for Mount Zion is passionate and strong; I am consumed with passion for Jerusalem!

3 "And now the LORD says: I am returning to Mount Zion, and I will live in Jerusalem. Then Jerusalem will be called the Faithful City; the mountain of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will be called the Holy Mountain.

- 1) He wants to dwell in the Temple
- 2) He wants to dwell with them in the flesh
- 3) He wants to dwell with them in Perfection

This is Israel's destiny.

Zechariah 3:1-3

Then the angel showed me Jeshua^[a] the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD. The Accuser, Satan,^[b] was there at the angel's right hand, making accusations against Jeshua. 2 And the LORD said to Satan, "I, the LORD, reject your accusations, Satan. Yes, the LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebukes you. This man is like a burning stick that has been snatched from the fire."

3 Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel. 4 So the angel said to the others standing there, "Take off his filthy clothes." And turning to Jeshua he said, "See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes."

They had a destiny but they needed the fire to get there.

What was that fire?

Explain the system of prayer and worship that was just a facade

Zechariah 8:9-12

9 "This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Be strong and finish the task! Ever since the laying of the foundation of the Temple of the LORD of Heaven's Armies, you have heard what the prophets have been saying about

completing the building. ¹⁰ Before the work on the Temple began, there were no jobs and no money to hire people or animals. No traveler was safe from the enemy, for there were enemies on all sides. I had turned everyone against each other.

¹¹ "But now I will not treat the remnant of my people as I treated them before, says the LORD of Heaven's Armies. ¹² For I am planting seeds of peace and prosperity among you.

How can God use external pressure as fire? Does He cause men to commit evil acts?

He makes all things work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes.

Look what the fire did for Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego! It burned away their bonds and made them free!

How are we to treat those who are in the fire?

³ Jeshua's clothing was filthy as he stood there before the angel. ⁴ So the angel said to the others standing there, "Take off his filthy clothes." And turning to Jeshua he said, "See, I have taken away your sins, and now I am giving you these fine new clothes."

⁵ Then I said, "They should also place a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean priestly turban on his head and dressed him in new clothes while the angel of the LORD stood by.

I said that fire also exists as Internal Conviction

Heb 12:18-24

18 You have not come to a physical mountain,^[h] to a place of flaming fire...22 No, you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem... You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge over all things. ...You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the *new* covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.

Jer 20:9

But if I say I'll never mention the LORD

or speak in his name,

his word burns in my heart like a fire.

It's like a fire in my bones! I am worn out trying to hold it in!

I can't do it!

The Best News of All

Jesus took the fire for us.

All we gotta do is put on Jesus.

Zech 6:9-13

9 Then I received another message from the LORD: 10 "Heldai, Tobijah, and Jedaiah will bring gifts of silver and gold from the Jews exiled in Babylon. As soon as they arrive, meet them at the home of Josiah son of Zephaniah. 11

Accept their gifts, and make a crown from the silver and gold. Then put the crown on the head of Jeshua^[d] son of Jehozadak, the high priest. ¹² Tell him, 'This is what the LORD of Heaven's Armies says: Here is the man called the Branch. He will branch out from where he is and build the Temple of the LORD.¹³ Yes, he will build the Temple of the LORD. Then he will receive royal honor and will rule as king from his throne. He will also serve as priest from his throne,^[e] and there will be perfect harmony between his two roles.'

1 Cor 3 talks about building with gold to survive the coming fire.

All you have to do is put on Christ by simply saying Yes.

The Holy Spirit enables us to say yes.

Obedience = building with gold!

