

THE FIRE OF GOD

1. An Introduction



Introduction

Fire has been essential throughout the history of man. It has been used to provide energy for heating and cooking, to cleanse impurities from metals and to clear land for farming. The Bible often speaks about fire. We are going to look at some of those verses to help us understand more fully what God is like and what he wants to do in our lives.

Scripture Reading: Exodus 3:1-6

- ◆ Who spoke to Moses from within the fire, and what was his reaction to this? V4, 6
(God spoke to Moses from within the burning bush and the presence of God was manifested like a fire. Moses' response to this was fear!)
- ◆ Why was Moses afraid? What does this show us about who God really is?
(The powerful, holy, awesome presence of God that Moses experienced was overwhelming and fearful. This revelation made him realise in a way he never had before, who God was, and also who he was.)
- ◆ Read Revelation 1:12-16. What does it say about the eyes and feet of Jesus in these verses?
(His eyes are like a blazing fire and his feet like bronze glowing in a furnace or a fire.)
- ◆ John had known Jesus while he was on earth. In fact John had been one of the disciples who was closest to Jesus. However what did John do when he saw Jesus in this vision? Revelation 1:17-18
(He fell at his feet as though dead.)
- ◆ What do you think it shows about Jesus when it says his 'eyes were like blazing fire?' Also see Revelation 2:18-19, 19:12
(Jesus is the Son of God – One with the Father and Holy Spirit. The three person of the Godhead are awesome, holy and powerful. Jesus' eyes reveal these characteristics of God. He can see right into our lives and he know the thoughts and intentions of our hearts. We can't hide anything from his eyes.)
- ◆ How can we draw near to God then, if he is so holy, awesome and powerful? Discuss.
(The only way is for us to humble ourselves and repent of our sin, and ask God for mercy through the blood of Jesus.)

The Bible says that 'without holiness no-one will see the Lord.' We must be careful not to fool ourselves into thinking that we can be Christians and live in sin. Read Hebrews 12:28-29. God's fire manifests in our lives through the work of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent to us.

- ◆ What did John the Baptist say Jesus would do in Matthew 3:11?
(He would baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire.)
- ◆ How was this fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost? See Acts 2:3-4
(When the Holy Spirit came, he came like fire, and this fire separated and came to rest on every person present in the room, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues.)

- ◆ What difference did it make in the lives of these early disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them as fire? Discuss.
(People will give different answers to this question. The result of the Holy Spirit coming like fire empowered the disciples to preach and heal the sick. It also purified their lives and set them aflame with a passion for Jesus.)
- ◆ How do our lives measure up with those of the first disciples? Are we 'on fire' for Jesus? What can we do if we aren't? Discuss.

Conclusion

The kind of Christianity we see in the early church, is the kind we need to day! Those first believers saw the Holy Spirit come as a fire, but it wasn't just an outward manifestation, the fire burned in their lives too, giving them power to speak boldly about Jesus and making them passionate to live for him. Let's cry out for God to send us the fire too!