

## **Faith in the fire.** Fire in the scripture indicates the presence of God.

We take fire and limit the image to judgment on the wicked:

- Lev 10.1-2
- Num 16.36
- Rev 20.9

\*If you make a mockery of this kind of example, and turn it into something trifle, then God will bring it upon your heads. It is NOT the case that this is an incorrect image of God. It is only to say that this is not the ONLY lessons to be learned from the fire of God. And that is what we want to explore today.

## **Presence of God, seen in the fire of these examples:**

- Fire in the bush (Ex 3.1ff). I am your Redeemer.
- Fire in the pillar (Ex 13.21; 14.19-20). I am going to make your path easy.
- Fire on the mountain (Ex 19.18). (Dan 7.9). I am your God, and that makes you mine.
- Fire on the burnt offering (Lev 9.24). I will be close to you in this place.
- An angel into the fire (Judges 13.20). You can hope in my deliverance (since Samson would begin the defeat of the Philistines).
- Fire consumed the sacrifice, altar, water, ground (I Kings 18.38). I will hear when you call on me.
- Chariot of fire and horses of fire (2 Kings 2.11). I know who belongs to me.
- Fire from heaven (I Chron 21.26). Even when you sin, you can still find me.
- Fire fell and consumed the sacrifice (2 Chron 7.1). I want you to see my glory, and share in the blessings of that.

## **The encouragement from the fire of God:**

- Elijah calls fire down on 50 men, two different times, and would have fallen if needed (2 Kings 1.10ff).
- God preserves the righteous BY HIS FIRE:
  - a. Dt 4.24; 9.3
  - b. David saved from Saul by the “consuming fire that came from your mouth” (Ps 18.8)
  - c. Ps 50.3 but God’s consuming fire is not for the righteous, but the wicked
  - d. Isr saved because of God’s fire that saves his righteous ones because the fire is only consuming the godless and the wicked (Isa 66.15-16)
  - e. Ps 104.4 & Heb 1.7 go together (angels are messengers of good news Lk 1.26, and messengers of destruction Ex 12.29; 2 Kings 19.35; Acts 12.23)
- God saves Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from a physical fire (Dan 3).
- The refiners’ fire: Zech 13.9; Mal 3.3; Isa 48.10; Job 23.10; Ps 66.10; I Pe 1.7; 4.12; 5.10.