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Quench and Unquenchable in the Old and New Testament.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Quench and Unquenchable in the Old and New Testament.

Topics.

- Lest you quench the lamp of Israel.
- No-one will quench them.
- God's fury cannot be quenched by man.
- A smouldering wick Jesus will not quench.
- Quench the fiery darts of the wicked one.
- Do not quench the Spirit.
- He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

NOTE: the purpose of this study is not to do an in-depth study on each topic, but simply to put the word quench into its context to discover whether it is linked to everlasting torment for all eternity.

QUENCH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In the Old Testament the word quench comes from the Hebrew word *kabah* and from Strong's Concordance means to expire; to come to an end; to be no longer and to die or release a last breath.

1

Lest you Quench the Lamp of Israel.

- **2 Sam 21:16-17:** Ishbi-benob, one of the descendants of the giants, whose spear weighed three hundred shekels of bronze, and who was armed with a new sword, thought to kill David. ¹⁷But Abishai the son of Zeruiah came to his aid and attacked the Philistine and killed him. Then David's men swore to him, "You shall no longer go out with us to battle, lest you *quench* the lamp of Israel."

In this context David is the lamp of Israel so to quench the lamp of Israel carries the idea of David being killed in battle.

No-One will Quench Them.

- **Isaiah 1:30-31:** For you (rebels and sinners and those who forsake the LORD) (v28) shall be like an oak whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water. ³¹And the strong shall become tinder, and his work a spark, and both of them shall burn together, with *none to quench them*.

The rebellious nation of Israel is likened to an oak tree whose leaves are withering without water (symbol of God's blessings and favour) the leaves are so dry that even a tiny spark would set them on fire. The symbolism here is that the rebellious nation of Israel is so corrupt and spiritually empty because God has withdrawn his favour and blessing so much so that they are on the brink of being totally destroyed by their enemies. In this context quench carries the idea that when Israel's enemies attack them no-one will be there to help them not even the strong of Israel.

Both of them shall burn together: the words, "The strong shall become tinder, and his work a spark, and both of them shall burn together" (v31) does not mean that they will literally burn in an eternal pit of eternal fiery flames for all eternity (as some believe), but that the sinners and the

strong of Israel will both be utterly defeated and destroyed by their enemies in battle. Isaiah is using biblical lofty language to express God's utter disdain toward Israel and highlight their utter destruction.

Quench in this context carries the following three ideas:

1. No-one will come to Israel's aid.
2. No-one will be able to quench the might of Israel's enemies.
3. No-one will be able to save Israel from total ruin and defeat.

The word burn perfectly depicts total ruin and destruction since the flames of a fire will continue to burn until they have utterly consumed everything in their path.

God's Fury, cannot be Quenched by Man.

- **Jeremiah 21:12:** O house of David! Thus says the LORD: "Execute judgment in the morning; And deliver him who is plundered Out of the hand of the oppressor, Lest My fury go forth like fire And burn so that *no one can quench it*, Because of the evil of your doings

In this context quench carries the idea that no-one is able to dispel the fury of God.

Conclusion of quench in the Old Testament: there are many other Scripture in the Old Testament using the word quench, but not one of them is linked to eternal torment.

QUENCH IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

2

In the New Testament the word quench is from the Greek word *sbennumi* and from Strong's Concordance means to extinguish or to go out (literal or figurative).

A Smoldering Wick Jesus will not Quench.

- **Matthew 12:15-20:** Jesus, aware of this, withdrew from there. And many followed him, and he healed them all ¹⁶and ordered them not to make him known. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not *quench*, until he brings justice to victory.

A bruised reed he will not break means that Jesus will not harm the weak, the poor or the less fortunate and those that are troubled or suffering. A smoldering wick he will not quench means that Jesus will not harm those who are spiritually weak or those who are believed to be demon possessed.

Quench the Fiery Darts' of the Wicked One.

- **Ephesians 6:16:** above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to *quench all the fiery darts* of the wicked one.

Quench in this context means to put out any thought of doubt or any action or behaviour that would dishonour God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith and put away anything that would hinder our faith and walk with the Lord.

Do not Quench the Spirit.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:19:** Do not *quench* the Spirit.

Quench in this context means to do not do anything to dispel the love and Spirit of Christ that dwells in the heart and the mind.

Conclusion of quench in the New Testament: quench in the New Testament means to extinguish anything that would hinder our walk with Christ and to put out doubt from the mind and avoid anything that would bring a bad testimony to God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith.

UNQUENCHABLE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

He will Burn up the Chaff with Unquenchable Fire.

- **Matthew 3:12:** His winnowing fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor, and gather his wheat into the barn; but he will *burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire*.
- **Luke 3:17:** His winnowing fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly clean out his threshing floor, and gather the wheat into his barn; but the chaff he will *burn with unquenchable fire*.

Fire spreads and devours everything that comes in its path and is never satisfied as long as it has something to burn it will burn forever until everything in its path is utterly consumed. Fire in the Bible speaks of God's judgment on the wicked because it is a perfect picture of God's wrath destroying everything that is evil and sinful. The words, "The Lord will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire," means that Christ will utterly destroy the wicked until they are totally consumed. This event literally takes place at the great White Throne Judgment when God descends to earth and the Sea, Death and Hades (the grave) give up the dead and they stand before the throne of God. Certain heavenly books are opened and they are judged according to what is written in these books according to their deeds. Some are counted worthy and others are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total extinction) (Rev. 20:11-15) (the Lake of Fire is also called the Second Death).

Conclusion of unquenchable in the New Testament: we began this study not to do an in-depth study on each topic, but simply to put the word quench into its context to discover whether it is linked to everlasting torment for all eternity. We have found that there are no Scriptures that link the word quench to eternal torment and that only verse in the entire Bible that use the word unquenchable (though the verse is cited in Matthew and Luke) it is the fire that is unquenchable not people burning or being tormented in it.

For more information see the following title:

- Molech.
- In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
