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GRACE**

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**Fire from Heaven  
and  
Fire from the LORD**

(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.



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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.

## **Fire from Heaven and Fire from the LORD.**

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### **Topics.**

- The symbolism of fire.
- The word of God is like fire in the mouth.
- Fire from heaven and fire from the LORD.
- Fire goes before God.
- A flame of devouring fire.
- The LORD will rain fire and sulfur on Gog.
- A judgment of fire that will consume the adversaries.
- Fire pours from the two witnesses' mouth.

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### **THE SYMBOLISIM OF FIRE**

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Fire can be taken literally or symbolically, and depending on the context can signify the following:

- God's wrath, condemnation and judgment, and all types of destruction.
- Mighty and fierce armies that utterly-destroy everything in their path.
- Utter destruction and annihilation of the enemies of God and His people.
- God's word, for it has power to condemn to eternal death.
- Burning coals of fire, signify cruelty, suffering and destruction.

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### **THE WORD OF GOD IS LIKE FIRE IN THE MOUTH**

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The statement, "the word of God is like fire in the mouth," carries the idea, that the word of God lays open the inner most being of a person to themselves. The light of God's word has the power to save to eternal life, and the power to condemn those who reject it to destruction, and in this sense, it becomes a consuming fire to those who reject and oppose it.

Faithful witnesses that proclaim the word of God have a spiritual power, for if the word they proclaim is accepted and lived by, it brings peace, and leads to God's favour and eternal life, but when rejected causes pain and leads to God's judgment condemnation and eternal death. It is in this sense that the word of God is as fire in the mouth of faithful witnesses who proclaim the truth of God's word and the Gospel of salvation, for it has the power to save to eternal life, or condemn to eternal death.

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### **FIRE FROM HEAVEN AND FIRE FROM THE LORD**

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## Fire from heaven consumed them.

- **2 Kings 1:9:** The fire that came down from heaven and consumed the king's two captains and their hundred men who upon the king's order commanded Elijah to go to the king, but fire consumed them proving Elijah was a man of God. (2 Kings 1:9-14).
- **Revelation 20:9:** And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them,

## Fire from the LORD consumed them.

- **Genesis 19:24:** Then the LORD rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the LORD out of heaven.
- **Numbers 16:35:** Fire came out from the LORD and consumed the 250 sinful men offering the incense.
- **Leviticus 10:1-2:** Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. <sup>2</sup>And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.

In Hebrews it is written:

- **Hebrews 12:29:** Our God is a consuming fire.

The expression, "fire came down from heaven," and, "fire from the LORD," mean the same thing. The meaning is, that they would be destroyed as if fire had come down from heaven, as on Sodom and Gomorrah. But it is not always necessary to understand the expression, "fire came down from heaven or from the LORD," literally, often what is meant is, that their destruction would be sudden, certain, entire, and complete, and that the last enemy of God and the church would be entirely swept away.

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## FIRE GOES BEFORE GOD

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- **Psalms 97:1-5:** The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad! <sup>2</sup> Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne. <sup>3</sup> Fire goes before him and burns up his adversaries all around. <sup>4</sup> His lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles. <sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.

The statement, "a fire goes before God," signifies the following two things:

1. God's power going before the armies of Israel like a mighty warrior and advancing guard devouring their enemies and clearing the way for them.
2. God's judgment upon the wicked, who will be burned up as chaff before a flame.

**Lightning and mountains melting:** lightning and mountains melting like wax are a spectacular display of God's power.

- To watch the luminous brilliance and power of God's lightning dispelling the darkness of the sky, and lighting up the earth below is a wonder to behold.
- To see a mountain, spew out fire and lather and fill the sky with clouds of smoke and dust for miles around it leaves one standing in awe.

Both, of these events should not only give mankind some sense of God's awesome power, and our weakness and mortality before it, but should also humble and motivate us to seek the God who can rescue us from such weakness and mortality and has the power to raise us to eternal life and immortality.

**Mountains melt like wax before the LORD of all the earth:** (v5), can signify the following three things:

1. Literally, to volcanos, for when they are erupting, they certainly look like mountains melting.
2. To powerful kings and their fierce armies (often referred to as mountains) who gather-together to destroy Israel and lay the nation waste, being destroyed by God's power.
3. To the end of Christ's glorious millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords when God Himself descends to earth on a Great White Throne and the earth and sky flee away from His presence and no place is found for them. (Revelation 20:11).

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### A FLAME OF DEVOURING FIRE

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- **Isaiah 29:6:** You (Jerusalem) will be visited by the LORD of hosts with thunder and with earthquake and great noise, with whirlwind and tempest, and the flame of a devouring fire. (Isaiah 29:6).

Here God says He will devour Ariel (signifying Jerusalem) with flames of a devouring fire. The devouring fire in this context was the fierce armies of Babylon who invaded the city and burned the houses within it. They are described as the rumbling of chariots, that leap on the tops of the mountains, like the crackling of a flame of fire devouring the stubble, like a powerful army drawn up for battle. (Joel 2:5).

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### THE LORD WILL RAIN FIRE AND SULFUR ON GOG

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- **Ezekiel 38:18-22:** Summon a sword against Gog on all His mountains, every man's sword will be against his brother and with pestilence and bloodshed the LORD will enter into judgment with him, and rain upon him and his hordes and the many peoples who are with him torrential rains and hailstones, fire and sulfur.

The meaning of fire and sulfur in this context could be taken literally, as God rained fire and sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah, or carry the idea of utter destruction, which fire brings upon everything its flames devour.

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### A JUDGMENT OF FIRE THAT WILL CONSUME THE ADVERSARIES

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- **Hebrews 10:26-27:** If we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,<sup>27</sup> but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries. (Heb. 10:26-27).

This is the fiery protection of God's wrath against the enemies of His people, the fire here signifies utter destruction and annihilation of the enemies of God and His people.

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### FIRE POURS FROM THE TWO WITNESSES' MOUTH

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- **Revelation 11:5:** If anyone would harm them (God's two witnesses), fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed.
1. Some interpret this literally, saying that flames of fire were literally coming out of the mouths of the two witnesses.
  2. Others believe the words, "fire pours from their mouth," signifies, judgement. This idea is supported by the fact, "the sword sticking out of Jesus' mouth," is not a literal sword.
    - In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. (Rev. 1:16).

And when the following words are considered:

- Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it and laid incense on it and offered unauthorized fire before the LORD, which he had not commanded them. <sup>2</sup> And fire came out from before the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD. (Lev. 10:1-2).

Fire from the LORD consumed Nadab and Abihu for doing what the LORD had not commanded, here fire and judgment are linked together, as they are in the following words of Jeremiah:

- Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of hosts: "Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am making my words in your mouth a fire, and this people wood, and the fire shall consume them. (Jer. 5:14).

And in the following verses we see that all who are found unworthy are cast into a lake of fire, clearly showing that fire signifies judgment.

- **Revelation 20:11-14:** Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. <sup>12</sup> And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. <sup>13</sup> And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. <sup>14</sup> Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

Based on these verses it seems far more likely that John's words, "fire pours from their mouth," signify such severe judgment, that the two witnesses speak upon those who attempt to harm them, that it is certain they will be cast into the lake of fire.

It is certain that any minister of the Gospel today who twists and distorts the Lord's teachings for their own advantage and gain (i.e., for worldly riches, importance, and fame), by cleverly lifting Scriptures out of context and preaching them with powerful authority and skilful oratory deceiving and leading many astray will be cast into the lake of fire.

Added to this idea is the fact, Elijah's ministry was protected by fire from heaven:

- Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. (1 Kings 18:38).
- Again, the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he answered and said to him, "O man of God, this is the king's order, 'Come down quickly!'" <sup>12</sup> But Elijah answered them, "If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty." Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. (2 Kings 1:11-12).

Nowhere else in Scripture is fire said to be coming out of a prophet's mouth, which means the words, "fire poured out of their mouths," signifies one of the following two:

1. The judgement the two witnesses pronounce upon those who attempt to harm them, pronounces them to the lake of fire.
2. The two witnesses, like Elijah call fire down from heaven that consumes those who attempt to harm them.

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