

~FIRE (1158)

- .. In Connection With God's Purposes**
- .. As Relates To The Tabernacle And The Temple**
- .. Legal Provisions, And Use In Executions**
- .. Use By Opposers Of God's Will**
- .. Figurative Usage**
- .. Testing, Refining, Purging**
- .. Destruction**

- **As today, so also in Bible times fire played an important role in man's life. The refining, forging, and casting of metals, along with the preparing of food and the heating of homes, as well as the offering of sacrifices and the burning of incense, are among the things specifically mentioned in the Bible as requiring the use of fire.**
- **However, because of the destructiveness of uncontrolled fire, it is described as one of the four things that have not said; Enough!**
- **The leeches have two daughters that cry; Give! Give! There are three things that do not get satisfied, four that have not said; Enough! ([Proverbs 30:15](#))**
- **Sheol and a restrained womb, a land that has not been satisfied with water, and **fire** that has not said; Enough! ([Proverbs 30:16](#))**
- **For the same reason James compared the tongue when used wrongly to a **fire**.**
- **So, too, the tongue is a little member and yet makes great brags. Look! How little a **fire** it takes to set so great a woodland on fire! ([James 3:5](#))**
- **Well, the tongue is a **fire**. The tongue is constituted a world of unrighteousness among our members, for it spots up all the body and sets the wheel of natural life **afire** and it is set aflame by Gehenna. ([James 3:6](#))**
- **For every species of wild beast as well as bird and creeping thing and sea creature is to be tamed and has been tamed by humankind. ([James 3:7](#))**
- **But the tongue, not one of mankind can get it tamed. An unruly**

injurious thing, it is full of death-dealing poison. ([James 3:8](#))

- A good-for-nothing man is digging up what is bad, and upon his lips there is, as it were, a scorching **fire**. ([Proverbs 16:27](#))
- The first man and woman were acquainted with **fire**, for Yehowah, upon expelling them from the garden of Eden, posted at the East of the garden the cherubs and the **flaming** blade of a sword that was turning itself continually.
- And so he drove the man out and posted at the east of the garden of Eden the cherubs and the **flaming** blade of a sword that was turning itself continually to guard the way to the tree of life. ([Genesis 3:24](#))
- Cain and Abel may have brought their offerings to Yehowah before the cherubs and, though it is not directly stated in the Scriptures, likely they used **fire** in presenting them, or they may have expected fire to come from the cherubs to consume the sacrifices.
- And it came about at the expiration of some time that Cain proceeded to bring some fruits of the ground as an offering to Yehowah. ([Genesis 4:3](#))
- But as for Abel, he too brought some firstlings of his flock, even their fatty pieces. Now while Yehowah was looking with favor upon Abel and his offering. ([Genesis 4:4](#))
- Tubal-cain, in forging tools of copper and iron, must have employed the heat of intense **fires**, especially since the melting of iron requires a temperature of (1,535° Centigrade) (2,795° Fahrenheit).
- As for Zillah, she too gave birth to Tubalcain, the forger of every sort of tool of copper and iron. And the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah. ([Genesis 4:22](#))
- After the Flood, bricks were baked with a burning process, although some were merely sun dried.
- And they began to say; each one to the other; Come on! Let us make bricks and bake them with a burning process. So brick served as stone for them, but bitumen served as mortar for them. ([Genesis 11:3](#))

- In view of the difficulty faced in kindling a **fire** anew, it was evidently a frequent practice to transfer fire from one place to another.
- After that Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and put it upon Isaac his son and took in his hands the **fire** and the slaughtering knife, and both of them went on together. ([Genesis 22:6](#))
- And one will certainly break it as in the breaking of a large jar of the potters, crushed to pieces without ones sparing it, so that there cannot be found among its crushed pieces a fragment of earthenware with which to rake the **fire** from the fireplace or to skim water from a marshy place. ([Isaiah 30:14](#))

• In Connection With God's Purposes

- Yehowah's angel appeared to Moses in a flame of **fire** in a burning thornbush that was not consumed.
- Then Yehowah's angel appeared to him in a flame of **fire** in the midst of a thorn bush. As he kept looking, why, here the thorn bush was burning with the **fire** and yet the thorn bush was not consumed. ([Exodus 3:2](#))
- A pillar of **fire** by night guided the Israelites through the wilderness, which pillar later rested over the tabernacle, signifying Yehowah's presence.
- And Yehowah was going ahead of them in the daytime in a pillar of cloud to lead them by the way, and in the nighttime in a pillar of **fire** to give them light to go in the daytime and nighttime. ([Exodus 13:21](#))
- For Yehowah's cloud was over the tabernacle by day, and a **fire** continued upon it by night in the sight of all the house of Israel during all their stages of journey. ([Exodus 40:38](#))
- The manifestation of Yehowah's glory in **fire** at the giving of the Law to Israel caused Mount Sinai to smoke.
- And Mount Sinai smoked all over, due to the fact that Yehowah came down upon it in **fire**, and its smoke kept ascending like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain was trembling very much. ([Exodus 19:18](#))

- And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the sight of Yehowah's glory was like a devouring **fire** on the mountaintop. (**Exodus 24:17**)

• As Relates To The Tabernacle And The Temple

- **Fire** figured in the worship carried on at the tabernacle and then later at the temple. Each morning and between the two evenings, the High Priest was to burn incense on the altar of incense.
- And Aaron must make perfumed incense smoke upon it. Morning by morning, when he dresses the lamps, he will make it smoke. (**Exodus 30:7**)
- And when Aaron lights up the lamps between the two evenings, he will make it smoke. It is an incense constantly before Yehowah during your generations. (**Exodus 30:8**)
- God's Law required that the **fire** on the altar of burnt offering be kept burning continually.
- And the **fire** on the altar will be kept burning on it. It must not go out. And the priest must burn wood on it morning by morning and set the burnt offering in order over it, and he must make the fatty pieces of the communion sacrifices smoke over it. (**Leviticus 6:12**)
- **Fire** will be kept constantly burning on the altar. It must not go out. (**Leviticus 6:13**)
- The traditional Jewish view that the altar **fire** was originally kindled miraculously by God, though widely accepted, is not actually supported by the Scriptures. According to Yehowah's initial instructions to Moses, the sons of Aaron were to put fire on the altar and set wood in order on the fire before placing the sacrifice on the altar.
- And the sons of Aaron, the priests, must put **fire** on the altar and set wood in order on the fire. (**Leviticus 1:7**)
- And the sons of Aaron, the priests, must set the pieces in order with the head and the suet over the wood that is on the **fire** that is on the altar. (**Leviticus 1:8**)

- It was after the installation of the Aaronic priesthood, and therefore after the installation sacrifices had been offered, that **fire** from Yehowah, probably proceeding from the cloud over the tabernacle, consumed the offering then upon the altar.
- In view of this, the miraculous **fire** manifested itself, not in kindling the wood on the altar, but in consuming the burnt offering and the fatty pieces upon the altar. The **fire** that then continued to burn on the altar, of course, was likely a result of the mixture of the fire from God and the **fire** already on the altar.
- Then he led up the bull of the sin offering and Aaron and his sons laid their hands upon the head of the bull of the sin offering. (**Leviticus 8:14**)
- And **fire** came out from before Yehowah and began consuming the burnt offering and the fatty pieces upon the altar. When all the people got to see it, they broke out into shouting and went falling upon their faces. (**Leviticus 9:24**)
- Likewise, miraculous **fire** from Yehowah consumed the sacrifices right after Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple.
- Now as soon as Solomon finished praying, the **fire** itself came down from the heavens and proceeded to consume the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and Yehowah's glory itself filled the house. (**2 Chronicles 7:1**)
- Then Yehowah's angel thrust out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unfermented cakes, and **fire** began to ascend out of the rock and to consume the meat and the unfermented cakes. As for Yehowah's angel, he vanished from his sight. (**Judges 6:21**)
- Then Elijah approached all the people and said; How long will you be limping upon two different opinions? If Yehowah is the true God, go following him. But if Baal is, go following him. And the people did not say a word in answer to him. (**1 Kings 18:21**)
- And Elijah went on to say to the people; I myself have been left as a prophet of Yehowah, I alone, while the prophets of Baal are four hundred and fifty men. (**1 Kings 18:22**)
- Now let them give us two young bulls, and let them choose for

themselves one young bull and cut it in pieces and put it upon the wood, but they should not put **fire** to it. And I myself shall dress the other young bull, and I must place it upon the wood, but I shall not put fire to it. (1 Kings 18:23)

- And you must call upon the name of your god, and I, for my part, shall call upon the name of Yehowah, and it must occur that the true God that answers by **fire** is the true God. To this all the people answered and said; The thing is good. (1 Kings 18:24)
- Elijah now said to the prophets of Baal; Choose for yourselves one young bull and dress it first, because you are the majority, and call upon the name of your god, but you must not put **fire** to it. (1 Kings 18:25)
- Accordingly they took the young bull that he gave them. Then they dressed it, and they kept calling upon the name of Baal from morning till noon, saying; O Baal, answer us! But there was no voice, and there was no one answering. And they kept limping around the altar that they had made. (1 Kings 18:26)
- And it came about at noon that Elijah began to mock them and say; Call at the top of your voice, for he is a god, for he must be concerned with a matter, and he has excrement and has to go to the privy. Or maybe he is asleep and ought to wake up! (1 Kings 18:27)
- And they began calling at the top of their voice and cutting themselves according to their custom with daggers and with lances, until they caused blood to flow out upon them. (1 Kings 18:28)
- And it came about that, as soon as noon was past and they continued behaving as prophets until the going up of the grain offering, there was no voice, and there was no one answering, and there was no paying of attention. (1 Kings 18:29)
- At length Elijah said to all the people; Approach me. So all the people approached him. Then he proceeded to mend the altar of Yehowah that was torn down. (1 Kings 18:30)
- So Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom Yehowah's word had come, saying; Israel is what your name will become. (1 Kings 18:31)

- And he went on to build the stones into an altar in the name of Yehowah and to make a trench, of about the area sowed with two seah measures of seed, all around the altar. (1 Kings 18:32)
- After that he put the pieces of wood in order and cut the young bull in pieces and placed it upon the pieces of wood. He now said; Fill four large jars with water and pour it upon the burnt offering and upon the pieces of wood. (1 Kings 18:33)
- Then he said; Do it again. So they did it again. But he said; Do it a third time. So they did it a third time. (1 Kings 18:34)
- Thus the water went all around the altar, and the trench also he filled with water. (1 Kings 18:35)
- And it came about at the time that the grain offering goes up that Elijah the prophet began to approach and say; O Yehowah, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, today let it be known that you are God in Israel and I am your servant and it is by your word that I have done all these things. (1 Kings 18:36)
- Answer me, O Yehowah, answer me, that this people may know that you, Yehowah, are the true God and you yourself have turned their heart back. (1 Kings 18:37)
- At that the **fire** of Yehowah came falling and went eating up the burnt offering and the pieces of wood and the stones and the dust, and the water that was in the trench it licked up. (1 Kings 18:38)
- When all the people saw it, they immediately fell upon their faces and said; Yehowah is the true God! Yehowah is the true God! (1 Kings 18:39)
- When all the people saw it, they immediately fell upon their faces and said; Yehowah is the true God! Yehowah is the true God! (1 Kings 18:39)
- For other examples of Yehowah's use of miraculous **fire** when accepting the offerings of his servants.

•• Legal Provisions, And Use In Executions

- The Mosaic Law prohibited lighting a **fire** on the Sabbath.
- You must not light a **fire** in any of your dwelling places on the Sabbath day. (**Exodus 35:3**)
- According to the Law, if a **fire** got out of hand and caused a conflagration in the field of another, the one starting the fire had to make compensation.
- In case a **fire** should spread out and it does catch thorns, and sheaves or standing grain or a field gets consumed, the one who started the fire is to make compensation without fail for what was burned. (**Exodus 22:6**)
- Garments or articles of skin in which a plague of leprosy developed and persisted were to be burned.
- But if the priest takes a look, and, there now, the plague has not spread in the garment or in the warp or in the woof or in any article of skin. (**Leviticus 13:53**)
- The priest must also command that they should wash that in which the plague is, and he must quarantine it a second seven days. (**Leviticus 13:54**)
- And the priest must look at the plague after it has been washed out, and if the plague has not changed its look and yet the plague has not spread, it is unclean. You should burn it in the **fire**. It is a low spot in a threadbare patch on either its underside or its outside. (**Leviticus 13:55**)
- But if the priest has taken a look, and, there now, the plague is dull after it has been washed out, he must then tear it out of the garment or the skin or the warp or the woof. (**Leviticus 13:56**)
- However, if it still appears in the garment or in the warp or in the woof or in any article of skin, it is breaking out. You should burn in the **fire** whatever it is in which the plague is. (**Leviticus 13:57**)
- As for the garment or the warp or the woof or any article of skin that you may wash, when the plague has disappeared from them, it must then be washed a second time, and it must be clean. (**Leviticus 13:58**)

- In the case of certain violations of God's law, the individuals were stoned to death and then their bodies were burned with **fire**.
- And where a man takes a woman and her mother, it is loose conduct. They should burn him and them in the **fire**, in order, that loose conduct may not continue in your midst. (**Leviticus 20:14**)
- Now in case the daughter of a priest should make herself profane by committing prostitution, it is her father that she is profaning. She should be burned in the **fire**. (**Leviticus 21:9**)
- And it must occur that the one picked with the thing devoted to destruction will be burned with **fire**, he and all that belongs to him, because he has overstepped the covenant of Yehowah and because he has committed a disgraceful folly in Israel. (**Joshua 7:15**)
- Then Joshua said; Why have you brought ostracism upon us? Yehowah will bring ostracism upon you on this day. With that all Israel went pelting him with stones, after which they burned them with **fire**. Thus they stoned them with stones. (**Joshua 7:25**)
- If an Israelite city turned to apostasy, its inhabitants were to be struck down with the sword, and the city and its spoil were to be burned in the **fire**.
- In case you hear it said in one of your cities, which Yehowah your God is giving you to dwell there. (**Deuteronomy 13:12**)
- Good-for-nothing men have gone out from your midst that they may try to turn away the inhabitants of their city, saying; Let us go and serve other gods, whom you have not known. (**Deuteronomy 13:13**)
- You must also search and investigate and inquire thoroughly, and if the thing is established as the truth, this detestable thing has been done in your midst. (**Deuteronomy 13:14**)
- You should without fail strike the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword. Devote it and everything that is in it, and its domestic animals, to destruction at the edge of the sword. (**Deuteronomy 13:15**)

- And all its spoil you should collect into the middle of its public square, and you must burn in the **fire** the city and all its spoil as a whole offering to Yehowah your God, and it must become a heap of ruins to time indefinite. It should never be rebuilt. (**Deuteronomy 13:16**)
- In carrying out war operations against their enemies, the Israelites consigned certain cities to the **fire**.
- And all their cities in which they had settled and all their walled camps they burned with **fire**. (**Numbers 31:10**)
- And they burned the city with **fire** and everything that was in it. Only the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron they gave to the treasure of Yehowah's house. (**Joshua 6:24**)
- And they went striking every soul that was in it with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction. No breathing thing at all was left over, and he burned Hazor in the **fire**. (**Joshua 11:11**)
- And all the cities of these kings and all their kings Joshua captured and went striking them with the edge of the sword. He devoted them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of Yehowah had commanded. (**Joshua 11:12**)
- It was only all the cities standing on their own mounds that Israel did not burn, except that Joshua did burn Hazor by itself. (**Joshua 11:13**)
- Also, the graven images and sacred poles were burned.
- On the other hand, this is what you should do to them; Their altars you should pull down, and their sacred pillars you should break down, and their sacred poles you should cut down, and their graven images you should burn with **fire**. (**Deuteronomy 7:5**)
- The graven images of their gods you should burn in the **fire**. You must not desire the silver and the gold upon them, nor indeed take it for yourself, for fear you may be ensnared by it, for it is a thing detestable to Yehowah your God. (**Deuteronomy 7:25**)
- And you must pull down their altars and shatter their sacred

pillars, and you should burn their sacred poles in the **fire** and cut down the graven images of their gods, and you must destroy their names from that place. (**Deuteronomy 12:3**)

- In taking spoil, the Israelites passed metals through the **fire**, in effect sterilizing them.
- Only the gold and the silver, the copper, the iron, the tin and the lead. (**Numbers 31:22**)
- Everything that is processed with **fire**, you should pass through the fire, and it must be clean. Only it should be purified by the water for cleansing. And everything that is not processed with fire you should pass through the water. (**Numbers 31:23**)
- On numerous occasions Yehowah used literal **fire** in executing his judgments against wrongdoers.
- Now the people became as men having something evil to complain about in the ears of Yehowah. When Yehowah got to hear it, then his anger grew hot, and a **fire** of Yehowah began to blaze against them and to consume some in the extremity of the camp. (**Numbers 11:1**)
- And a **fire** came out from Yehowah and proceeded to consume the two hundred and fifty men offering the incense. (**Numbers 16:35**)
- But Elijah answered and spoke to the chief of the fifty; Well, if I am a man of God, let **fire** come down from the heavens and eat up you and your fifty. And **fire** came descending from the heavens and went eating up him and his fifty. (**2 Kings 1:10**)
- So he sent again to him another chief of fifty with his fifty. In turn he answered and spoke to him; Man of the true God, this is what the king has said; Do come down quickly. (**2 Kings 1:11**)
- But Elijah answered and spoke to them; If I am a man of the true God, let **fire** come down from the heavens and eat up you and your fifty. And **fire** of God came descending from the heavens and went eating up him and his fifty. (**2 Kings 1:12**)
- So too Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities about them, after they in the same manner as the foregoing ones had committed

fornication excessively and gone out after flesh for unnatural use, are placed before us as a warning example by undergoing the judicial punishment of everlasting **fire**. (**Jude 1:7**)

- **At the destruction of apostate Judah and Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 607 B.C.E, Yehowah's anger was figuratively poured out just like **fire**. This expression of anger was accompanied by literal fire.**
- **And he proceeded to burn the house of Yehowah and the king's house and all the houses of Jerusalem, and the house of every great man he burned with **fire**. (**2 Kings 25:9**)**
- **In the heat of anger he has cut down every horn of Israel. He has turned his right hand back from before the enemy, and in Jacob he keeps burning like a flaming **fire** that has devoured all around. (**Lamentations 2:3**)**
- **He has trodden his bow like an enemy. His right hand has taken its position like an adversary, and he kept killing all those desirable to the eyes. Into the tent of the daughter of Zion he has poured out his rage, just like **fire**. (**Lamentations 2:4**)**
- **John the Baptizer warned the religious leaders of his day of a baptism with **fire**, which came upon Jerusalem in 70 C.E, when the Roman armies destroyed the city and burned its temple.**
- **When he caught sight of many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to the baptism, he said to them; You offspring of vipers, who has intimated to you to flee from the coming wrath? (**Matthew 3:7**)**
- **So then produce fruit that befits repentance. (**Matthew 3:8**)**
- **And do not presume to say to yourselves; As a father we have Abraham. For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones. (**Matthew 3:9**)**
- **Already the ax is lying at the root of the trees, every tree, then, that does not produce fine fruit is to be cut down and thrown into the **fire**. (**Matthew 3:10**)**
- **I, for my part, baptize you with water because of your repentance, but the one coming after me is stronger than I am, whose sandals I am not fit to take off. That one will baptize you**

people with Holy Spirit and with **fire**. ([Matthew 3:11](#))

- His winnowing shovel is in his hand, and he will completely clean up his threshing floor, and will gather his wheat into the storehouse, but the chaff he will burn up with **fire** that cannot be put out. ([Matthew 3:12](#))

• Use By Opposers Of God's Will

- **Fire** was also used by opposers of God's will in threats, cruel executions, and sacrifices. Angered Ephraimites threatened Jephthah: Your very house we shall burn over you with **fire**.
- Similarly, Samson's 30 Philistine groomsmen threatened to **burn** his betrothed and her father's house if she did not get Samson to tell her the solution to a riddle and then advise them accordingly.
- After Samson sent 300 foxes with **lighted torches** into the standing grain of the pagan Philistines, the Philistines did **burn** her and her father with **fire**.
- Then the men of Ephraim were called together and crossed over northward and said to Jephthah; Why is it that you crossed over to fight against the sons of Ammon, and to us you did not issue a call to go with you? Your very house we shall burn over you with **fire**. ([Judges 12:1](#))
- Then the men of Ephraim were called together and crossed over northward and said to Jephthah; Why is it that you crossed over to fight against the sons of Ammon, and to us you did not issue a call to go with you? Your very house we shall burn over you with **fire**. ([Judges 12:1](#))
- And Samson went his way and proceeded to catch three hundred foxes and to take torches and turn tail to tail and put one torch between two tails, right in the middle. ([Judges 15:4](#))
- With that he set **fire** to the torches and sent them out into the fields of standing grain of the Philistines. Thus he set on fire everything from sheaf to standing grain and the vineyards and the olive groves. ([Judges 15:5](#))
- And the Philistines began to say; Who did this? Then they said; It was Samson the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he took his

wife and then gave her to his groomsman. At that the Philistines went up and burned her and her father with **fire**. (**Judges 15:6**)

- **Satan the Devil employed **fire** from the heavens by God's permission in the special test allowed on Job.**
- **Accordingly Yehowah said to Satan; Look! Everything that he has is in your hand. Only against him himself do not thrust out your hand! So Satan went out away from the person of Yehowah. (**Job 1:12**)**
- **While this one was yet speaking that one came and proceeded to say; The very **fire** of God fell from the heavens and went blazing among the sheep and the attendants and eating them up, and I got to escape, only I by myself, to tell you. (**Job 1:16**)**
- **The nations residing in Canaan actually burned their children in the **fire** as an offering to their false gods. Although specifically commanded by Yehowah not to do this, a violation of this command calling for the death penalty, apostate Israelites sacrificed their own children in the Valley of Hinnom.**
- **You are to say to the sons of Israel, Any man of the sons of Israel, and any alien resident who resides as an alien in Israel, who gives any of his offspring to Molech, should be put to death without fail. The people of the land should pelt him to death with stones. (**Leviticus 20:2**)**
- **And as for me, I shall set my face against that man, and I will cut him off from among his people, because he has given some of his offspring to Molech for the purpose of defiling my holy place and to profane my holy name. (**Leviticus 20:3**)**
- **And if the people of the land should deliberately hide their eyes from that man when he gives any of his offspring to Molech by not putting him to death. (**Leviticus 20:4**)**
- **Then I, for my part, shall certainly fix my face against that man and his family, and I shall indeed cut him and all those who have immoral intercourse along with him in having immoral intercourse with Molech off from among their people. (**Leviticus 20:5**)**
- **You must not do that way to Yehowah your God, for everything**

- detestable to Yehowah that he does hate they have done to their gods, for even their sons and their daughters they regularly burn in the **fire** to their gods. (**Deuteronomy 12:31**)
- Twenty years old was Ahaz when he began to reign, and for sixteen years he reigned in Jerusalem, and he did not do what was right in Yehowah's eyes like David his forefather. (**2 Chronicles 28:1**)
 - But he walked in the ways of the kings of Israel, and even molten statues he made of the Baals. (**2 Chronicles 28:2**)
 - And he himself made sacrificial smoke in the valley of the son of Hinnom and proceeded to burn up his sons in the **fire**, according to the detestable things of the nations that Yehowah had driven out from before the sons of Israel. (**2 Chronicles 28:3**)
 - And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, in order to burn their sons and their daughters in the **fire**, a thing that I had not commanded and that had not come up into my heart. (**Jeremiah 7:31**)
 - And they built the high places of the Baal in order to burn their sons in the **fire** as whole burnt offerings to the Baal, something that I had not commanded or spoken of, and that had not come up into my heart. (**Jeremiah 19:5**)
 - However, faithful King Josiah put an end to this gruesome practice by making Topheth in the Valley of Hinnom unfit for worship.
 - And he made unfit for worship Topheth, which is in the valley of the sons of Hinnom, that no one might make his son or his daughter pass through the **fire** to Molech. (**2 Kings 23:10**)

See Also MOLECH

•• Figurative Usage

- **Fire** or expressions having the thought of **burning**, or **flaming**, are figuratively associated with love.
- Place me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm, because love is as strong as death is, insistence on exclusive devotion is as unyielding as Sheol is. Its **blazings** are the

blazings of a **fire**, the **flame** of Yah. (**Song of Solomon 8:6**)

- **Passion,**
- And likewise even the males left the natural use of the female and became violently **inflamed** in their lust toward one another, males with males, working what is obscene and receiving in themselves the full recompense, which was due for their error. (**Romans 1:27**)
- But if they do not have self-control, let them marry, for it is better to marry than to be **inflamed** with passion. (**1 Corinthians 7:9**)
- **Anger and judgment,**
- Before the statute gives birth to anything, before the day has passed by just like chaff, before there comes upon you people the **burning anger** of Yehowah, before there comes upon you the day of Yehowah's anger. (**Zephaniah 2:2**)
- For, look! The day is coming that is burning like the furnace, and all the presumptuous ones and all those doing wickedness must become as stubble. And the day that is coming will certainly devour them, Yehowah of armies has said; so that it will not leave to them either root or bough. (**Malachi 4:1**)
- **Strong emotion,**
- And they said to each other; Were not our hearts burning as he was speaking to us on the road, as he was fully opening up the Scriptures to us? (**Luke 24:32**)
- Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is stumbled, and I am not incensed? (**2 Corinthians 11:29**)
- When Jeremiah wanted to refrain from speaking Yehowah's word, he found this impossible, for it proved to be like a burning **fire** shut up in his bones.
- And I said; I am not going to make mention of him, and I shall speak no more in his name. And in my heart it proved to be like a burning **fire** shut up in my bones, and I got tired of holding in, and I was unable to endure it. (**Jeremiah 20:9**)

- The Scriptures refer to Yehowah as a consuming **fire** because of his cleanness, purity, and insistence on exclusive devotion, as well as the fact that he annihilates those who set themselves in opposition to him.
- For Yehowah your God is a consuming **fire**, a God exacting exclusive devotion. (**Deuteronomy 4:24**)
- And you well know today that Yehowah your God is crossing before you. A consuming **fire** he is. He will annihilate them, and he himself will subdue them before you, and you must dispossess them and destroy them speedily, just as Yehowah has spoken to you. (**Deuteronomy 9:3**)
- His ardor and rage burn like **fire**, and his tongue and word are like a **fire**.
- How long, O Yehowah, will you be incensed? Forever? How long will your ardor burn just like **fire**? (**Psalms 79:5**)
- How long, O Yehowah, will you keep yourself concealed? For all time? Will your rage keep on burning just like a **fire**? (**Psalms 89:46**)
- Look! The name of Yehowah is coming from far away, burning with his anger and with heavy clouds. As for his lips, they have become full of denunciation, and his tongue is like a devouring **fire**. (**Isaiah 30:27**)
- Is not my word correspondingly like a **fire**, is the utterance of Yehowah, and like a forge hammer that smashes the crag? (**Jeremiah 23:29**)
- Moreover, Yehowah makes his angelic ministers a devouring **fire**, and by the **fire** of his zeal the earth will be devoured.
- Bless Yehowah, O my soul. O Yehowah my God, you have proved very great. With dignity and splendor you have clothed yourself. (**Psalms 104:1**)
- Making his angels spirits, this ministers a devouring **fire**. (**Psalms 104:4**)

- Therefore keep yourselves in expectation of me, is the utterance of Yehowah, till the day of my rising up to the booty, for my judicial decision is to gather nations, for me to collect together kingdoms, in order to pour out upon them my denunciation, all my burning anger, for by the **fire** of my zeal all the earth will be devoured. (**Zephaniah 3:8**)
- I kept on beholding until there were thrones placed and the Ancient of Days sat down. His clothing was white just like snow, and the hair of his head was like clean wool. His throne was flames of **fire**, its wheels were a burning fire. (**Daniel 7:9**)
- There was a stream of **fire** flowing and going out from before him. There were a thousand thousands that kept ministering to him, and ten thousand times ten thousand that kept standing right before him. The Court took its seat, and there were books that were opened. (**Daniel 7:10**)

• Testing, Refining, Purging

- The messenger of the covenant is compared to a refiners **fire**, a **fire** used in purifying gold and silver. Hence, Yehowah's fiery testing of the sons of Levi by the messenger of the covenant brings about their cleansing.
- Look! I am sending my messenger, and he must clear up a way before me. And suddenly there will come to His temple the true Lord, whom you people are seeking, and the messenger of the covenant in whom you are delighting. Look! He will certainly come, Yehowah of armies has said. (**Malachi 3:1**)
- But who will be putting up with the day of his coming, and who will be the one standing when he appears? For he will be like the **fire** of a refiner and like the lye of laundrymen. (**Malachi 3:2**)
- And he must sit as a refiner and cleanser of silver and must cleanse the sons of Levi, and he must clarify them like gold and like silver, and they will certainly become to Yehowah people presenting a gift offering in righteousness. (**Malachi 3:3**)
- A test by **fire** also reveals the quality of a material, as pointed out by the apostle Paul when emphasizing the importance of building on Jesus Christ with fire-resistant materials.

- According to the undeserved kindness of God that was given to me, as a wise director of works I laid a foundation, but someone else is building on it. But let each one keep watching how he is building on it. (**1 Corinthians 3:10**)
- For no man can lay any other foundation than what is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (**1 Corinthians 3:11**)
- Now if anyone builds on the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood materials, hay, stubble. (**1 Corinthians 3:12**)
- Each ones work will become manifest, for the day will show it up, because it will be revealed by means of **fire**, and the fire itself will prove what sort of work each ones is. (**1 Corinthians 3:13**)
- If anyone's work that he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. (**1 Corinthians 3:14**)
- If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, but he himself will be saved, yet, if so, it will be as through **fire**. (**1 Corinthians 3:15**)

See Also REFINE, REFINER

- **Fire** and salt were associated with the sacrifices offered at the temple.
- And the priest must lift off some of the grain offering as a remembrancer of it and must make it smoke on the altar, as an offering made by **fire** of a restful odor to Yehowah. (**Leviticus 2:9**)
- And every offering of your grain offering you will season with salt, and you must not allow the salt of the covenant of your God to be missing upon your grain offering. Along with every offering of yours you will present salt. (**Leviticus 2:13**)
- And you must bring them near before Yehowah, and the priests must throw salt upon them and offer them up as a whole burnt offering to Yehowah. (**Ezekiel 43:24**)
- Salt represented freedom from corruption and was a symbol of enduring loyalty, as found in the expression covenant of salt.

- Is it not for you to know that Yehowah the God of Israel himself gave a kingdom to David over Israel to time indefinite, to him and to his sons, by a covenant of salt? (**2 Chronicles 13:5**)
- Of what, then, is the **fire** symbolic?
- The apostle Peter refers to trials or sufferings as a **fire** that proves the quality of the Christians faith.
- In this fact you are greatly rejoicing, though for a little while at present, if it must be, you have been grieved by various trials. (**1 Peter 1:6**)
- In order, that the tested quality of your faith, of much greater value than gold that perishes despite its being proved by **fire**, may be found a cause for praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. (**1 Peter 1:7**)
- Later, he likens suffering for righteousness to a **burning** when he tells his fellow Christians;
- Beloved ones, do not be puzzled at the **burning** among you, which is happening to you for a trial, as though a strange thing were befalling you. (**1 Peter 4:12**)
- On the contrary, go on rejoicing forasmuch as you are sharers in the sufferings of the Christ, that you may rejoice and be overjoyed also during the revelation of his glory. (**1 Peter 4:13**)
- That such suffering for righteousness has a beneficial effect is pointed out by the apostle Paul when he says;
- And not only that, but let us exult while in tribulations, since we know that tribulation produces endurance. (**Romans 5:3**)
- A person who faithfully and successfully passes through a difficult **burning** trial is stronger and more solidly established as a result of his endurance.
- Strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to remain in the faith and saying; We must enter into the kingdom of God through many tribulations. (**Acts of Apostles 14:22**)
- Rejoice in the hope. Endure under tribulation. Persevere in

prayer. (**Romans 12:12**)

.. Destruction

- **In Bible times the most thorough means of destruction in use was fire.**
- **And they burned the city with fire and everything that was in it. Only the silver and the gold and the articles of copper and iron they gave to the treasure of Yehowah's house. (**Joshua 6:24**)**
- **And all its spoil you should collect into the middle of its public square, and you must burn in the fire the city and all its spoil as a whole offering to Yehowah your God, and it must become a heap of ruins to time indefinite. It should never be rebuilt. (**Deuteronomy 13:16**)**
- **Hence Jesus at times used the term fire in an illustrative way to denote the complete destruction of the wicked.**
- **Therefore, just as the weeds are collected and burned with fire, so it will be in the conclusion of the system of things. (**Matthew 13:40**)**
- **The Son of man will send forth his angels, and they will collect out from his kingdom all things that cause stumbling and persons who are doing lawlessness. (**Matthew 13:41**)**
- **And they will pitch them into the fiery furnace. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. (**Matthew 13:42**)**
- **That is how it will be in the conclusion of the system of things: the angels will go out and separate the wicked from among the righteous (**Matthew 13:49**)**
- **And will cast them into the fiery furnace. There is where their weeping and the gnashing of their teeth will be. (**Matthew 13:50**)**
- **And they will actually go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that were transgressing against me, for the very worms upon them will not die and their fire itself will not be extinguished, and they must become something repulsive to all flesh. (**Isaiah 66:24**)**

- Then he will say, in turn, to those on his left; Be on your way from me, you who have been cursed, into the everlasting **fire** prepared for the Devil and his angels. ([Matthew 25:41](#))
- On one occasion Jesus warned his disciples against letting their hand, foot, or eye stumble them so that they would be pitched into Gehenna. Then he went on to say;
- And if ever your hand makes you stumble, cut it off, it is finer for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go off into Gehenna, into the **fire** that cannot be put out. ([Mark 9:43](#))
- And if your foot makes you stumble, cut it off, it is finer for you to enter into life lame than with two feet to be pitched into Gehenna. ([Mark 9:45](#))
- And if your eye makes you stumble, throw it away, it is finer for you to enter one-eyed into the kingdom of God than with two eyes to be pitched into Gehenna. ([Mark 9:47](#))
- Where their maggot does not die and the **fire** is not put out. ([Mark 9:48](#))
- For everyone must be salted with **fire**. ([Mark 9:49](#))

See Also GEHENNA

- Peter wrote that, the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for **fire**. From the context and in the light of other scriptures, it is evident that this is not a literal fire but signifies everlasting destruction.
- As the Flood of Noah's day did not destroy the literal heavens and earth, but only the ungodly persons, so also the revelation of Jesus Christ with his powerful angels in a flaming **fire** will result in permanent destruction only for the ungodly and the wicked system of things of which they are a part.
- For, according to their wish, this fact escapes their notice, that there were heavens from of old and an earth standing compactly out of water and in the midst of water by the word of God. ([2 Peter 3:5](#))

- And by those means the world of that time suffered destruction when it was deluged with water. (2 Peter 3:6)
- But by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for **fire** and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men. (2 Peter 3:7)
- Yet Yehowah's day will come as a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a hissing noise, but the elements being intensely hot will be dissolved, and earth and the works in it will be discovered. (2 Peter 3:10)
- Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion. (2 Peter 3:11)
- Awaiting and keeping close in mind the presence of the day of Yehowah, through which the heavens being on **fire** will be dissolved and the elements being intensely hot will melt! (2 Peter 3:12)
- But there are new heavens and a new earth that we are awaiting according to his promise, and in these righteousness is to dwell. (2 Peter 3:13)
- This takes into account that it is righteous on God's part to repay tribulation to those who make tribulation for you. (2 Thessalonians 1:6)
- But, to you who suffer tribulation, relief along with us at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with his powerful angels (2 Thessalonians 1:7)
- In a flaming **fire**, as he brings vengeance upon those who do not know God and those who do not obey the Good News about our Lord Jesus. (2 Thessalonians 1:8)
- These very ones will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting destruction from before the Lord and from the glory of his strength. (2 Thessalonians 1:9)
- At the time he comes to be glorified in connection with his holy ones and to be regarded in that day with wonder in connection with all those who exercised faith, because the witness we gave

met with faith among you. (2 Thessalonians 1:10)

- For here Yehowah himself comes as a very **fire**, and his chariots are like a storm wind, in order to pay back his anger with sheer rage and his rebuke with flames of fire. (Isaiah 66:15)
- For as **fire** Yehowah himself will for a fact take up the controversy, yes, with his sword, against all flesh, and the slain of Yehowah will certainly become many. (Isaiah 66:16)
- For just as the new heavens and the new earth that I am making are standing before me, is the utterance of Yehowah, so the offspring of you people and the name of you people will keep standing. (Isaiah 66:22)
- And they will actually go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that were transgressing against me, for the very worms upon them will not die and their **fire** itself will not be extinguished, and they must become something repulsive to all flesh. (Isaiah 66:24)
- Further examples of the use of **fire** to represent eternal destruction are found in Revelation and Ezekiel. There we are told that the ten horns and the wild beast will turn upon Babylon the Great and burn her with fire.
- And the ten horns that you saw, and the wild beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her devastated and naked, and will eat up her fleshy parts and will completely burn her with **fire**. (Revelation 17:16)
- For God put it into their hearts to carry out his thought, even to carry out their one thought by giving their kingdom to the wild beast, until the words of God will have been accomplished. (Revelation 17:17)
- The attack of Gog and his hordes against God's people arouses Yehowah's anger, and **fire** and sulfur will rain down upon them. The remaining war implements of the attackers will be used to light **fires** for seven years.
- And in my ardor, in the **fire** of my fury, I shall have to speak. Surely in that day a great quaking will occur in the soil of Israel. (Ezekiel 38:19)

- And I will bring myself into judgment with him, with pestilence and with blood, and a flooding downpour and hailstones, **fire** and sulphur I shall rain down upon him and upon his bands and upon the many peoples that will be with him. ([Ezekiel 38:22](#))
- And I will send **fire** upon Magog and upon those who are inhabiting the islands in security, and people will have to know that I am Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 39:6](#))
- And the inhabitants of the cities of Israel will certainly go forth and burn and build **fires** with the armor and bucklers and large shields, with the bows and with the arrows and with the handstaves and with the lances, and with them they will have to light fires seven years. ([Ezekiel 39:9](#))
- And they will not carry sticks of wood from the field, nor will they gather **firewood** out of the forests, for with the armor they will light **fires**. And they will certainly make spoil of those who had been making spoil of them, and plunder those who had been plundering them, is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Yehowah. ([Ezekiel 39:10](#))
- Those nations who become rebellious when Satan is released at the end of the Thousand Year Reign of Christ will be devoured by **fire**, and the Devil and all those not written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of **fire**, representing the second death.
- Now as soon as the thousand years have been ended, Satan will be let loose out of his prison. ([Revelation 20:7](#))
- And he will go out to mislead those nations in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war. The number of these is as the sand of the sea. ([Revelation 20:8](#))
- And they advanced over the breadth of the earth and encircled the camp of the holy ones and the beloved city. But **fire** came down out of heaven and devoured them. ([Revelation 20:9](#))
- And the Devil who was misleading them was hurled into the lake of **fire** and sulphur, where both the wild beast and the false prophet already were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. ([Revelation 20:10](#))

- Furthermore, whoever was not found written in the book of life was hurled into the lake of **fire**. (**Revelation 20:15**)
- But as for the cowards and those without faith and those who are disgusting in their filth and murderers and fornicators and those practicing spiritism and idolaters and all the liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with **fire** and sulphur. This means the second death. (**Revelation 21:8**)

See Also HINNOM, VALLEY OF

See Also LAKE OF FIRE