

Wind, Fire and Holy Spirit

On a hot day like today, air conditioners can help keep us cool. How do they do that? They blow cool air into the church. Do you see any air coming out of the air conditioners? If we cannot see the cooling air, how do we know they are working?

We know the AC is working because we feel the air move across the room. We cannot see it, but we can feel it. Also, if we get quite and listen, we can hear the sound of the air moving. We cannot see the air, but we can hear it.

The Bible tells us that on the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus were gathered together in the upper room and God sent the Holy Spirit to give them the power to teach other people about Jesus. They could not see the Holy Spirit – so how did they know the Holy Spirit was there?

First, they could hear the sound of a mighty rushing wind from heaven. They could not see the Spirit, but they could feel and hear God breathing out with rushing wind bringing the Spirit, just as we can feel and hear the AC blowing cool air.

Second, the Bible tells us they saw flaming tongues of fire that came and rested on each of them. They could not see the Holy Spirit, but they knew the Spirit was there because they could see the flaming tongues of fire that brought God's warmth to their hearts. Just like we can feel the cooling of the air because of the air conditioners.

Finally, the Bible tells us they knew the Holy Spirit was there because they could feel His power within them. When God filled them with His Holy Spirit, they were given the miraculous power to speak in languages they did not know. Why? So,

they could tell people from other countries about the Savior Jesus Christ. They could not see the Spirit, but they could feel the power of His presence as He moved them to speak foreign languages. We cannot feel the power of the AC units converting warm air to cool air, but our electric bill tells us the cost of the power it takes to run the AC units. What does it cost to have the power of God and His Holy Spirit working in you, what does it to convert you from sinners to saints? The cost is your life, you must give your life to Jesus.

When you give your life to Jesus, you will not, mostly likely see the Holy Spirit, but you will hear Him when you get quite and stop listening to the world, you will hear the Spirit in your heart. You will not see Him, but you will feel Him moving your life closer to God and you will begin to live for God's glory.

Father, we thank You, first for giving us Your Son, Jesus, as our Savior. We thank you, secondly, for giving us Your Holy Spirit to live in our souls to guide us through life. Father, we thank you for saving us because You love us and by Your grace you have brought us out of the world, and now, Father empower us to live for Your glory and embolden us to speak to everyone we meet about our Savior Jesus. Amen!

Wind, Fire & Holy Spirit

Introduction

God does whatever He wants, whenever He wants. In the Book of Acts, we are going to be exposed to some things that should cause our view of God to expand. In other words, God cannot and will not be forced into a manmade box. We cannot dictate to God what He can do and what He cannot do. God is beyond our ability to fully define, which is great – because if we could completely define God, He would be a manmade god. However, we do gain a greater understanding of God as our faith grows and matures. But, at the same time we are not to attribute to God what He Himself does not state. Men have a habit of adding to God’s Word in order to define God’s Word as they think best.

There have been times in history when God pours out His Spirit to such a degree that cities, countries and even the world changes. We see this in the beginning of Acts. As we look to the history of the Church, we learn about great revivals such as the Great Awakening during the days of Jonathan Edwards and see the effects of a wonderful outpouring of the Spirit. I long for another Great Awakening of the world to God and pray God will send His Spirit to convict the world and at the same time bring hope.

When one is saved, they are filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God does an amazing work within our hearts. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit changes the way we see the world and our purpose in living. God’s Spirit empowers us to overcome sin and begin to be transformed more and more into the image of Christ,

we call this the process of sanctification. We never want to consider our being born again and filled with the Spirit as anything less than an amazing miracle. Christ's Church, which is His people, is to be a change element not only to people within the church but to the world at large.

We are challenged as we work through the second chapter of Acts to determine what God wants us to learn. Not what denominations or individuals think or say what God is teaching. This chapter has been greatly abused and this has caused conflict and division. I will work at giving you what the Word of God teaches, nothing more and nothing less.

What is the difference between being "baptized with the Holy Spirit" and being "filled with the Holy Spirit"? These 2 terms are used a lot, but what do they mean? Well, the first problem is they can mean almost anything a person wants them to mean. Let me define them in order we are all on the same page of understanding. Baptism of the Holy Spirit has to do with regeneration or being born again by accepting Jesus as one's Lord and Savior and when this is done with a sincere heart, that person is given the Holy Spirit to live within. The indwelling results in the regenerated person being identified with Jesus Christ both spiritually in the sight of God and publicly. The Spirit begins the process of sanctification in one's life. Later when one is baptized by water it symbolizes dying to self and rising with Christ to live holy. Being "[filled with the Spirit](#)" is what our passage in Acts chapter is referring to. We see in Acts chapter 1 they were already believers and were obedient to Christ and went to Jerusalem and waited for the Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is found 14 times in the New Testament, 4 of these are before Pentecost and 10 after. The common theme in these passages is that the believers are emboldened and empowered by the Spirit equipping people to begin to testify and share the Gospel of Christ.

The emphases of the first 13 verses are not people being given special gifts, such as, speaking in unknown tongues, but being equipped or empowered or “filled with the Spirit” to preach the gospel. We know from this passage that there were people from many countries who spoke many languages and each heard the gospel in their own language. Is speaking in an unknown tongue then the outward sign of being “filled with the Spirit”? No, this is not what the scriptures teach. For example, we read Jesus was “filled with the Spirit” in Luke chapter 4, Jesus was empowered by the Spirit and the result was He was strengthened to overcome the temptations of Satan in the wilderness. He then “returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee ...¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.” (Luke 4:14-15) Even Jesus, as the incarnate God, was empowered by the Spirit for the Gospel. When Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, she was empowered, so she spoke a word of blessing to Mary (Luke 1:41-45). When Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, he was empowered to prophesied (Luke 1:67-79). In Acts chapter 4 those filled with the Spirit resulted in their being empowered and powerfully preaching of the gospel. In Acts chapter 9 when Ananias laid hands on Saul and prayed, Saul was filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul was empowered and began preaching Christ. In Acts 13 the disciples were preaching the gospel throughout the whole region “And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 13:52)

In First Corinthians chapter 14, Paul speaks about “tongues” as an unknown language not understood by the speaker, but understood by God and God gives someone the ability to interpret as Paul writes, “The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.” (1 Corinthians 14:5) God is a God of order and purpose and all gifts are to be used for the glory of God and the benefit of the church. There are also a variety of spiritual gift and the scriptures do not teach everyone receives the same gift. Therefore, speaking in unknown tongues is not the benchmark gift that demonstrates

one is a true believer or is filled with the Spirit. Every believer is given the Holy Spirit fully – some do not receive more than others. I took time to explain this because the unknown tongues of 1 Corinthians are not the type of tongues referred to in Acts chapter 2.

I believe it is a good thing to pray for a pouring out of God’s Spirit as was seen at Pentecost or during one of the great historical revivals. Most of the time, God works in the everyday events and causes us to grow closer to Christ little by little. Once in a while, however, He pours out His Spirit on His people and His Kingdom moves forward in a great way. We see this in both the scriptures and from history when the Word of God is being preached with great conviction by a multitude of believers.

The passage we are working through today should be seen as the fulfillment of Joel 2 and Luke 3:16. In Joel we read what is here fulfilled, ²⁸“**And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.**” ²⁹Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.” (Joel 2:28-29) Prophecy, dreams and visions are for the purpose of empowering the people to preach the gospel with conviction and clarity. Luke recorded the words of John the Baptist, “**I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**” (Luke 3:16)

Pentecost also shares symbolism with Passover and the Festival of Weeks that can give deeper meaning of what took place as the Holy Spirit is given to every believer by rushing wind and divided tongues as of fire. The theme of Acts chapter 2, verses 1 to 13 is **when God sends His Spirit to indwell each believer, He gives His**

Spirit fully so that each believers are enabled to overcome the evil of the world, to live holy and to preach the gospel of Christ.

Just like the Apostles, we too need the Holy Spirit's power to speak boldly to others about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We must be empowered to go and tell others. No one can be a faithful witness without the power of God. This passage in Acts 2, shows us just how important it is to have, as Paul calls Him, the Spirit of Christ. I think another important issue this text deals with is - what God is – He is the God who works miracles and wonders. Too often as Christians we can get used to the status quo and forget to expect awesome things from God.

Pentecost's Arrival

Verse 1, [When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place](#). Luke reports that the day of Pentecost had come. He uses a rare Greek word *Sympleroo* translated as “arrived” that appears in only one other place and here in Acts, it is used by Luke to explain that something is being fulfilled. The Greek word “Sympleroo” is defined thusly, “to come to the end of a period of time, with the implication of the completion of an implied purpose or plan or to complete, to come to an end.” In other words, something that for centuries had been but a promise of God was now fulfilled. The number of days was finished.

I remember when our kids were little, we would use an Advent Calendar as a countdown for Christmas Day. Each little door represented one day. As we opened these doors, we would count down the days. By Greek word, *Sympleroo* we understand, in a way, God had set a time that this pouring out of the Holy Spirit would take place and He was counting down the days – God opened the last door and it is time.

It is the same imagery and use of Sympleroo in the only other place in the Bible. In Luke chapter 9, verse 51 we read, “When the days drew near (*Sympleroo*) for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem.” Here, with Jesus’ ascension, there was a certain timetable. In other words, Jesus was taken up to heaven at exactly the preordained time. The same is true here. Pentecost was the day in which God would pour out the Holy Spirit and begin or put into action His New Covenant. In God’s preordained timetable - the time had come.

We remember that the Holy Spirit had been promised in the days of Abraham back in Genesis. This promise would come to pass on this particular day - fifty days after Passover. Pentecost was considered a holiday and no work was to be done. There were 3 great festivals in which all Jews living within twenty miles of Jerusalem had to attend; Passover, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles. Many came, even those living at great distances from the city. This explains why there were so many people speaking different languages present on the day of Pentecost. It is estimated that Jerusalem had a population ranging from 600,000 to 1 million at the time of Jesus’ ministry. During the 3 great festivals it is also estimated the population could be as much as double.

Pentecost means *the fifty*. It took place fifty days after Passover. It was sometimes called the Feast of Weeks because the fiftieth day was the end of seven weeks or a week of weeks, as it was sometimes called. Seven is an important number in the scriptures; for days, weeks and years. Journey back to Leviticus with me, ⁸“You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. ⁹ Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. ¹⁰ And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants.” (Leviticus

25:8-10) The main purpose of remembering the Day of Pentecost was that it signified the day on which Moses was given the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Moses' receiving of the Ten Commandments marked the giving of the Law or the Mosaic Covenant. There would be no better day for God to pour out His New Covenant on His followers than on this day, the Day of Pentecost.

Pentecost also had another significance, and that is it was when the Jews would offer to God the first fruits of the barley harvest. As we will learn next week, there would be a great harvest of souls, as Peter would call on everyone to repent. God would gather in a great harvest of souls, as well on Pentecost. So, Pentecost was the perfect day for God to pour out the Holy Spirit.

Signs of God's Fulfilled Promise

Rushing Wind

The disciples and followers or believers in Christ are in the upper room praying, verse 2 informs us, “**And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting.**” We need to understand that in the ancient languages wind was in Hebrew *rûah*, Greek *pneúma* and Latin *spiritus*, which were all languages in wide use at this time the word for “spirit” was also used for “wind” or “breath”. It is interesting that in all 3 languages to say the word for wind or breath or spirit, one has to make an audible breath sound - *rûah*.

Going back to the beginning of God's Word, “**In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.**”² **The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**” (Genesis 1:1-2) In the English language the words do not convey the meaning well. You might have the image of the Spirit as a dove skimming over the waters. In

Hebrew the image is the Holy Spirit of God as God's breath, a breath that is creative, moving and dynamic as the Spirit brings the earth into being. Later in chapter 2 of Genesis we read, "then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.**" (v. 7) Apart from God's breath or wind, man processes no life. God breathed into Adam life and spirit, and the same is true today; if God does not breath His Spirit into a person, they remain spiritually dead. God is the source of all life; both physically and spiritually.

This is what God told the prophet Ezekiel concerning the wind or breath of the Spirit, ⁹"Then he said to me, '**Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live.**' ... ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ **And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.**' " (Ezekiel 37:9,13-14)

Jesus was asked by Nicodemus about the new birth – spiritual birth, we read the dialog between them in John chapter 3, "Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. ² This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.' ³ Jesus answered him, '**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.**' ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, 'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?' ⁵ Jesus answered, '**Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**' ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do

not marvel that I said to you, “You must be born again.”⁸ **The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’**” (vs. 1-8) God breaths or His wind, His Spirit causes one to be born spiritually.

If the Holy Spirit’s work in the new birth is called **wind**, then the Holy Spirit’s work at Pentecost could be called a hurricane or the “**sound like a mighty rushing wind**”. A hurricane can reach wind speeds of 160 mph or more but this is nothing compared to the power of the Wind of God’s Holy Spirit. In the upper room there was a loud sound of massive wind filling the upper room, they must have been scared and excited. The wind was blowing, the Spirit was moving, the breath of God was breathing on those in that room and filling them with His Spirit.

Tongues of Fire

Throughout redemptive history God had at times appeared to man in the form of fire or burning glory. In verse 3 we read, “**And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.**” We could look to the examples of the burning bush, the pillar of fire leading His people in the wilderness, the fire, wind and lightning that accompanied the giving of the Ten Commandments. Here the fire is as tongues – tongues speak and when one speaks, they breath out. This reinforces that the Holy Spirit is the breath of God breathing spiritual life into people. When one preaches the Word of God or shares the gospel of Christ, they speak out life. At the end of the Book of Hebrews the writer writes, “**Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom (the gift of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling) that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.**” (Hebrews 12:28-29) The Holy Spirit is heard and seen. He is seen as fire or glory and heard as the mighty rushing wind. It seems that what is taking place is the fire is symbolic of God’s presence with His people is now divided

and comes to rest above each person. This is showing that from now on the Holy Spirit will be indwelling each individual believer and empowering them to do what God calls them to do.

It seems somewhat like when God appointed elders to help Moses in the wilderness, ²⁴“So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent. ²⁵**Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. . . .**” (Numbers 11:24-25) They spoke God’s words.

These flames of fire called fiery tongues were the presence of God. Just as the lightning flashed on top of Mount Sinai when Moses was given the Law of God so now God would give a new law. This is the law of freedom for all people. These flaming tongues were God empowering His people with the Holy Spirit, fire brings light – these tongues of fire brought the Holy Spirit, which is God’s light to empower people for bold evangelism. Without the Light of God, people live in spiritual darkness. Christianity is meant to be a flame spreading throughout the world bringing the light and warmth of God’s saving truth. The Lord Jesus said on one occasion, **“I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled!”** (Luke 12:49) Fire can bring warmth but it can also destroy, for those being saved and those not saved the fire of God is very different. John the Baptist made this clear, **“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”** (Matthew 3:11-12) Jesus’ fire, the Holy Spirit, is spreading throughout the earth and the **“tongues of fire”**

will bring believers the warmth of God’s love as His children and for those who do not believe, as “the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Tongues, God’s Spirit For The Nations

You can see on the screen the map of the areas and nations mentioned in our study passage. This Pentecost of Acts chapter 2 involved much more than the Jews of Israel. “Tongues of fire” are for the nations of the world. Reading verses 4 to 13, “And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians (*Iran*) and Medes (*NW Iran*) and Elamites (*SW Iran*) and residents of Mesopotamia, (*Name given by the Greeks to the land between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, an area today called al-Jazira, “the island,” by the Arabs. Mesopotamia, which means literally “between the rivers,” is applied to the land between and near those rivers down to the Persian Gulf. Much of it is included in Iraq and Syria, and a small part in Turkey.*) Judea (*The southern part of Palestine*) and Cappadocia **kap·pad·ok·ee·ah** (*Plateau region of eastern Asia Minor*), Pontus (*Roman province in northeastern Asia Minor, located along the southern coast of the Black Sea.*) and Asia (*In NT times, the Roman province immediately east of the Aegean Sea.*), ¹⁰ Phrygia **froog·ee·ah** (*Western Turkey*) and Pamphylia **pam·fool·ee·ah** (*South Coast of Asia Minor*), Egypt and the parts of Libya (*Northern Coast of Africa*) belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome (*Italy*), ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans (*People from Crete*) and Arabians (*From Arabia*) —we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

As mentioned already, there have been times when God has moved in miraculous ways and there have been great revivals and awakenings in history. However, there has never been a day like Pentecost. There are other mentions in scripture of the filling with the Holy Spirit, but this day the church was birthed and this makes it unique. “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” This is God beginning to spread the Gospel to those who speak a different language. The miracle is that these languages were not previously known to the Apostles and were languages that they would soon forget.

When they were immersed in the Spirit something happened to them. They were overpowered by the Spirit and began doing what the Holy Spirit does, namely, glorifying God and bringing the gospel message of salvation to life. It was the Spirit who hovered over the face of the deep and created life on earth. It was the Spirit who hovered over Mary to create life within her womb, it was the Spirit who raised Christ from the dead, it is the Spirit who causes sinners to be born again. So, here again, in Acts, the Holy Spirit is sending forth the message of eternal life through the Apostles and believers.

Reading from Acts chapter 2, ⁴“they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other *tongues* as the Spirit gave them utterance. ... ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?” The Greek word, *glossa* translated here as “*tongues*” means the physical tongue that converts breath to sounds of language. It does not refer to a spiritual language. Here it is very clear all the different people groups assembled in Jerusalem spoke different languages. In God’s great plan He chose to allow the Tower of Babel to be reversed for a brief while to jump-start His Church. The Apostles were actually speaking in languages that they personally did not know but some people assembled there with them did. What is also

important is that the message they spoke was the message of the mighty deeds of God, especially surrounding the cross of Christ.

The Holy Spirit: Two Responses

Finally, we see people gather at Pentecost react in different ways, reading again from our study passage, beginning in verse 5, “**devout men from every nation under heaven.** ⁶ **And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.**” Now moving ahead to verse 12, “**And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, ‘What does this mean?’** ¹³ **But others mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’**”

Some Received

When Luke writes “**all were amazed**” this does not mean **all** were amazed by understanding the message of the gospel. The ones who understand what the Apostles were saying were amazed. They were hearing the Good News for the first time by those who could not speak their language. So, some understood and were amazed and gave their heart to the Lord. What is also clear is that even though these foreign Jews and other nationalities were hearing the Gospel in their own language, there was an added dimension to this event that they did not fully understand. Some needed more information and this is why they asked in verse 12, “**What does this mean?**” Later in chapter 2, Peter’s sermon resulted in “**those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.**” (Acts 2:41) At least 3000 heard and understood and gave their hearts to Christ. These that were amazed and understood and gave the church sudden growth and led to the gospel being taken out to many nations fulfilling Acts 1:8, “**you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” For those who asked, “**What does this mean?**”

How is it they can receive the answer to their question? This is addressed by Peter later in chapter 2.

Some Mocked

There were those who just refused to believe, skeptics, verse 13, “**But others mocking said, ‘They are filled with new wine.’**” In part, it is the response of these mockers that leads to Peter’s sermon, reading at verse 14, “**But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.** ¹⁵ **For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day.’**” This takes us full circle to where we started, **when God sends His Spirit to indwell each believer, He gives His Spirit fully so that each believers are enabled to overcome the evil of the world, to live holy and to preach the gospel of Christ.** For those at that Pentecost this was symbolized by wind and fire. Wind representing the breath of God and His enabling believers to speak the gospel to the world. Fire of God like the burning bush before Moses which instills an awe of God and brings the warm of His love for believers and the destruction for unbelievers.

Closing

I want us to realize that the same Holy Spirit that entered the room as a mighty rushing wind and as tongues of fire resting above each person that day is the same Holy Spirit we receive as believers. The Apostles were in full submission to the Spirit’s leading and mighty works were accomplished. The Bible calls every believer to submit to the Spirit’s leading as well. Are you in subjection to the Spirit’s leading today? Or do you quench the Spirit and put the fire of God in your heart out by disobedience? These are questions each of us should seriously consider.

The scriptures tell us clearly that the Lord is a fire of destruction for unbelievers and a fire of power for His children. For unbelievers, “Behold, the name of the LORD comes from afar, burning with his anger, and in thick rising smoke; his lips are full of fury, and his tongue is like a devouring fire.” (Isaiah 30:27) For God’s children, He warns and encourages, “Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make a carved image *or idol or the form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you.* ²⁴ **For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.**” (Deuteronomy 4:23-24) As the writer of Hebrews ended his epistle with this encouragement, “**Therefore** let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ **for our God is a consuming fire.**” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

Amen and amen!