**How Does Fire Figure in the Bible?**

“the furnace of the fire” – Mat.13:40-42 – stumbling-stones & lawless gathered out of the kingdom

– Mat.13:47-50 – worthless & wicked separated from righteous, who enter the kingdom

– LXX Dan.3 (5) – Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego suffer trial by fire

“Gehenna” – Mat.5:29 – stumblers keeping their right eye, but having “the whole body” cast in

– Mat.5:30 – stumblers keeping their right hand, but having “the whole body” cast in

– Mat.10:28 – men can kill only the body – fear Him Who can destroy (*apollumi*) body and soul in G. (relates to “the death the second”, below) (also Luk.12:5 “the G.”)

– Mat.23:15 – proselytes of the religious elite were twice as bad as their teachers – all “sons of Gehenna” – “hypocrites”

– Mat.23:33 – the religious elite were vipers unable to escape “from the judgment of the Gehenna (hapax)”

“the Gehenna of the fire” – Mat.5:22 – whoever calls a brother Israelite ‘Fool!’

* Mat.18:9 – for stumblers having two eyes

“the Gehenna…the fire the unquenchable” – Mar.9:43 – for stumblers having two hands

– Mar.9:45 – for stumblers having

two feet

“the Gehenna…the fire is not quenched” – Mar.9:47-48 – for stumblers having two eyes

– Isa.66:24 – the key (cp. Jam.5:3)

But for the righteous – Mar.9:49 – “everyone will be salted with fire”

Background in Isaiah – Isa.30:27-33 – Tophet “for the king”, “the Assyrian”, i.e., the Antichrist

Background in Jeremiah – Jer.7:31-32 – Tophet, Ge-ben-hinnom, Gehenna will become “the valley of the slaughter” – corpses will exceed its burial capacity (&19:5-15)

* Eze.39:11-15 – cp. “the valley of the multitude of

Gog”

Gehenna a metaphor of destruction – Jam.3:5-6 – “the tongue is a fire…enflamed by the Gehenna”

“the fire the age-abiding” – Mat.18:8 – for stumblers having two hands, two feet

– **Mat.25:41** – for the accursed who failed to be kind to Israel – Gen.12:3 intensified

“fire age-abiding” – Jud.1:7 – Sodom and Gomorrah an example of just judgment

*Metaphor:* the unfruitful tree – Mat.3:10 – cut down and cast into fire (also 7:19; Luk.3:9; Joh.15:6)

*Metaphor:* the chaff – Mat.3:12 – winnowed and burned up in fire unquenchable (also Luk.3:17)

But for the righteous – Mat.3:11 – Jesus will baptize a baptism by holy spirit and fire

* Luk.12:49 – “fire I came to cast upon the earth” – one aspect for *the righteous* – another for *the unrighteous*
* Gen.15:13-17 – Abrahamic Covenant – his seed to pass through smoke and fire – Egypt & the Exodus as types of End-time affliction
* Zec.13:8-9 – a third of Israel refined by fire; the rest cut off

“flame of fire” – Acts 7:30 – angelic appearance in the burning bush

“fire of flame” – 2 Th.1:6-10 – vengeance on Israelites not obeying gospel

* Heb.1:7 – making His angels spirits and His ministers \_\_\_\_\_\_

“fire and brimstone” – Rev.14:9-10 – those receiving the mark of the Beast will drink “the wine of the wrath of God” & will be tested (“tormented”) by \_\_\_\_\_\_ (cp. Psa.11:6)

* + Eze.38:14-23 – doom of Gog
  + Gen.19:24 – Yahweh rained brimstone and fire upon

Sodom and Gomorrah

“the lake of the fire and brimstone” – Rev.20:10 – Satan cast into & tested (“tormented”) unto the ages of the ages

Eze.28:12-19 – a resume of Satan’s career

& his judgment

* Heb.2:14 – Satan’s destruction (*katargeo* –

cp. the Lawless One in 2 Th.2:8)

“the lake the burning with fire and brimstone” – Rev.21:8 – “the death the second”, for the cowardly, unfaithful, abominable, murderers, prostitutes, sorcerers, idolaters, liars

“the lake of the fire the burning with brimstone” – Rev.19:20 – Beast & False Prophet cast in

“the lake of the fire” – Rev.20:14 – the death and the hades cast in – “the death the second” – the last enemy (1 Co.15:26)

* Rev.20:15 – those not in the Book of Life cast in

Judgments of fire – Acts 2:19 – wonders in the heavens, signs upon the earth – blood, fire and vapor of smoke (fm. Joel 2:30)

* Rev.11:5 – two witnesses – fire goes out of their mouths to

consume their enemies

* Rev.16:8 – angel pours vial upon the sun, scorching men

with fire

* Rev.18:8 – plagues on Babylon - utterly burned with fire
* Rev.20:9 – fire from God consumes Gog and Magog
* Exo.9:13-26 – plague (7th) of fiery hail on Egypt
* Deu.9:3 – Yahweh, a consuming fire, went before Israel to

destroy the giants (Anakim)

* Isa.33:10-17 – sinners of Zion – 6 refs. to fire/burning
* Isa.34:8-10 – “a day of vengeance to Yahweh” – Edom’s

doom – their land turned to brimstone &

burning pitch

God’s purifying nature – Heb.12:29 – “our God *is* a consuming fire” (fm.

Deu.4:24)

* Rev.1:14 – one like a Son of man – “his eyes as flame

of fire” (also 2:18; 19:12)

* Dan.7:9-10 – Ancient of Days sits in judgment, His

throne a flame of fire, His wheels of

burning fire, a fiery river flows from Him

The world on trial – 1 Cor.3:11-15 – works of each will be revealed (*apokalupto*)

“the fire” will test them

* 1 Pet.1:7 – the testing of your faith…tested by fire…praise,

honor and glory at the revelation (*apokalupsis*)

of Jesus Christ

* 2 Pet.3:7 – heavens & earth treasured up for fire, kept for a

day of judgment & destruction (*apoleia*) of

ungodly men

The “accursed” or “devoted” thing – Lev.27:28-29 – distinguished from things

merely “sanctified”

* Num.21:2-3 – cities of enemies (Deu.2:32-

34)

* Deu.7:25-26 – an idol brings a curse on

one’s house

* Deu.13:12-17 – idolatry in an Israelite city
* Isa.34:5– doom of Edom
* Mal.4:6 – the jeopardy of Israel – the last

word chronologically

In Summary: Weeping and Gnashing = sorrow and rage of the disinherited

Outer Darkness = state or place of disinheritance, thrown out into

the nations

Judgments at the start of the earthly kingdom are manifold –

1. Israel judged by 12 Apostles
2. Nations judged by Jesus – various dockets
   1. “misdemeanors” of sheep and goats – “Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?” (Gen.18:25)
   2. “felonies” of nations conspiring against Israel – “valley of decision”, et al.

Judgment of fire does not affect all alike

1. God’s fire is for testing and cleansing
   1. some “saved…as by fire”
   2. some refined by fire, like gold or silver
   3. others devoted to destruction

Summary of Unique Expressions: the furnace of the fire

the Gehenna

the Gehenna of the fire

the Gehenna…the fire the unquenchable

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