

# **The figurative fire**

**Allowing God's word of judgment to purify us**



Fire

**Jesus cast fire  
upon the earth**



Jesus

“I have come to cast fire  
upon the earth; and how  
I wish it were already  
kindled!” (Lk 12:49)

# The figurative meaning of fire

- Fire = word of judgment/discernment
- Just as physical fire can purify or destroy depending on what it is applied to, God's word of judgment can purify our spirit or turn it to ash depending on how we receive it.
- A kindled fire is also figuratively



associated with intensity or passion.

“Burning anger vs burning love”

**“But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the Lord offerings in**

**righteousness.**

## **Mal 3:2-3**

**Then I said, “Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.” Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said, “Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom**

**shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said,  
“Here am I. Send me!”**

## **Is 6:5-8**

**“For the house of Israel and the house of Judah Have dealt very treacherously with Me,” declares the Lord.**

**“They have lied about the Lord and said, ‘Not He; misfortune will not come on us, and we will not see sword or famine.’ The prophets are as wind, and the word is not in them. Thus it will be done to them!”**

**Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of hosts,  
“Because you have spoken this word, behold, I am**

making **My words in your mouth fire** and **this people**  
**wood, and it will consume them.**”

**Jer 5:11-14**

**So He poured out on him the heat**  
**of His anger** and the fierceness of  
battle; and it set him aflame all  
around, yet he did not recognize  
it; and **it burned him, but he paid**

**no attention.**

**Is 42:25**

**Two ways to receive the fire and two  
outcomes**

God's fiery word of  
judgment  
Arrogant heart

Rejects fire Accepts fire

Spirit had a chance, but refused to repent → dead as ash. Cannot be restored to God because cannot even recognize its corrupt state.



Spirit repented and was purified → living fire producing a burning passion within to spread God's flames to others.

Humble heart

# Fiery judgment at the 1st

**coming** Jesus Pharisees Judgment (Mal 4:1, Is

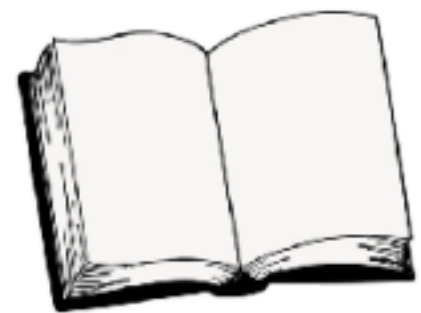
42:25→Mt 23)



Open Word

Purify (Mal 3:2-3)

OT P→F



KoH



God's fire



Hell

Remove sin (Is 6:5-8) Mt

3:11-12

Christians  
Spirits purified  
Baptism with fire  
Hearts burning with

passion Lk 24:27, 32-25  
Jewish Believers  
Spirits  
burned up

**“As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His**

**threshing floor; and  
He will gather His wheat into the barn, but  
He will burn up the chaff with  
unquenchable fire.”**

**Mt 3:11-12**

**Then beginning with Moses and with all  
the prophets, [Jesus] explained to them  
the things concerning Himself in all the  
Scriptures ... They said to one another,**

**“Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?”**

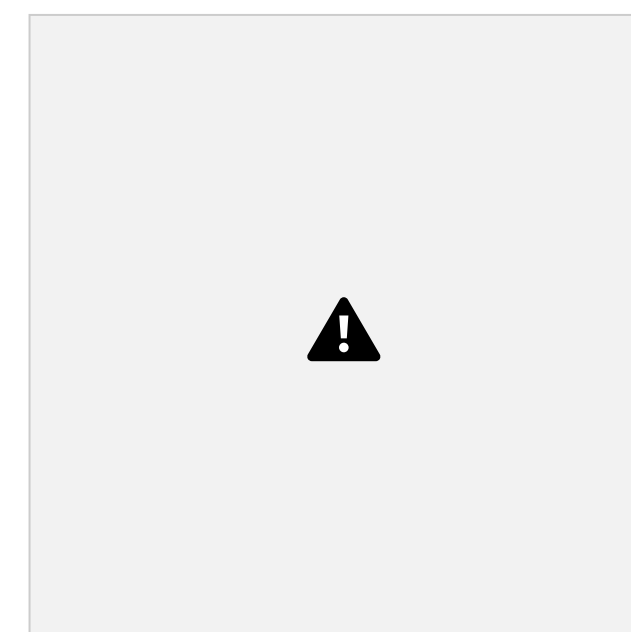
**Lk 24:27, 32**

**Fiery judgment at  
the 1st coming** Jesus



Pharisees

Judgment (Mal 4:1, Is



42:25→Mt 23)

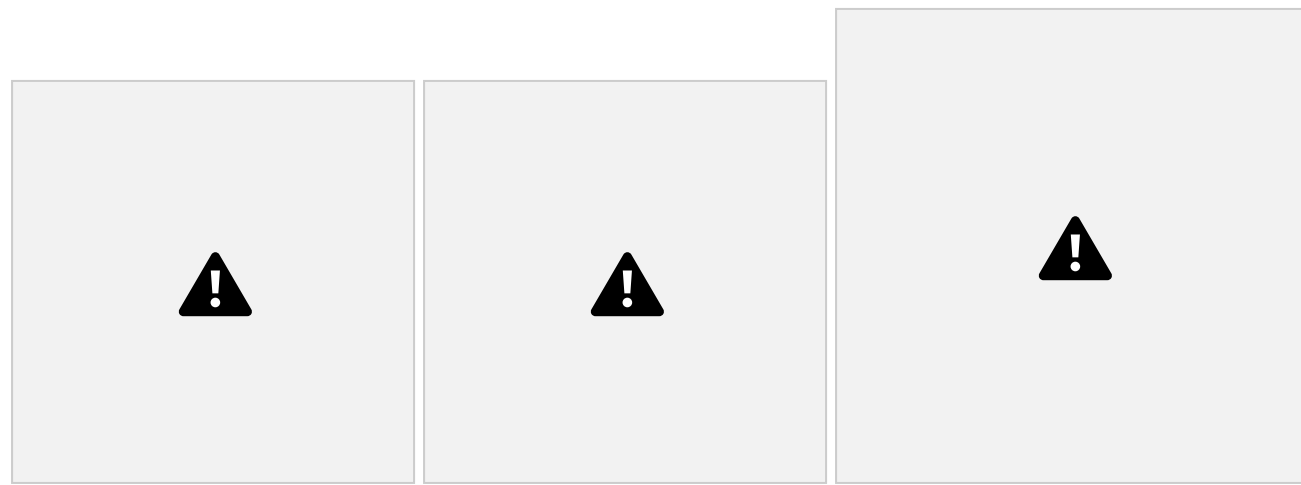


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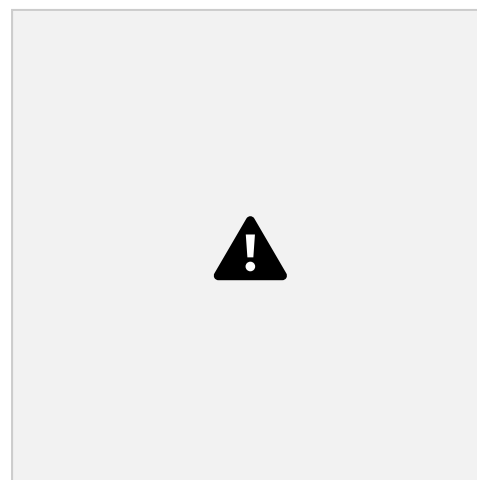
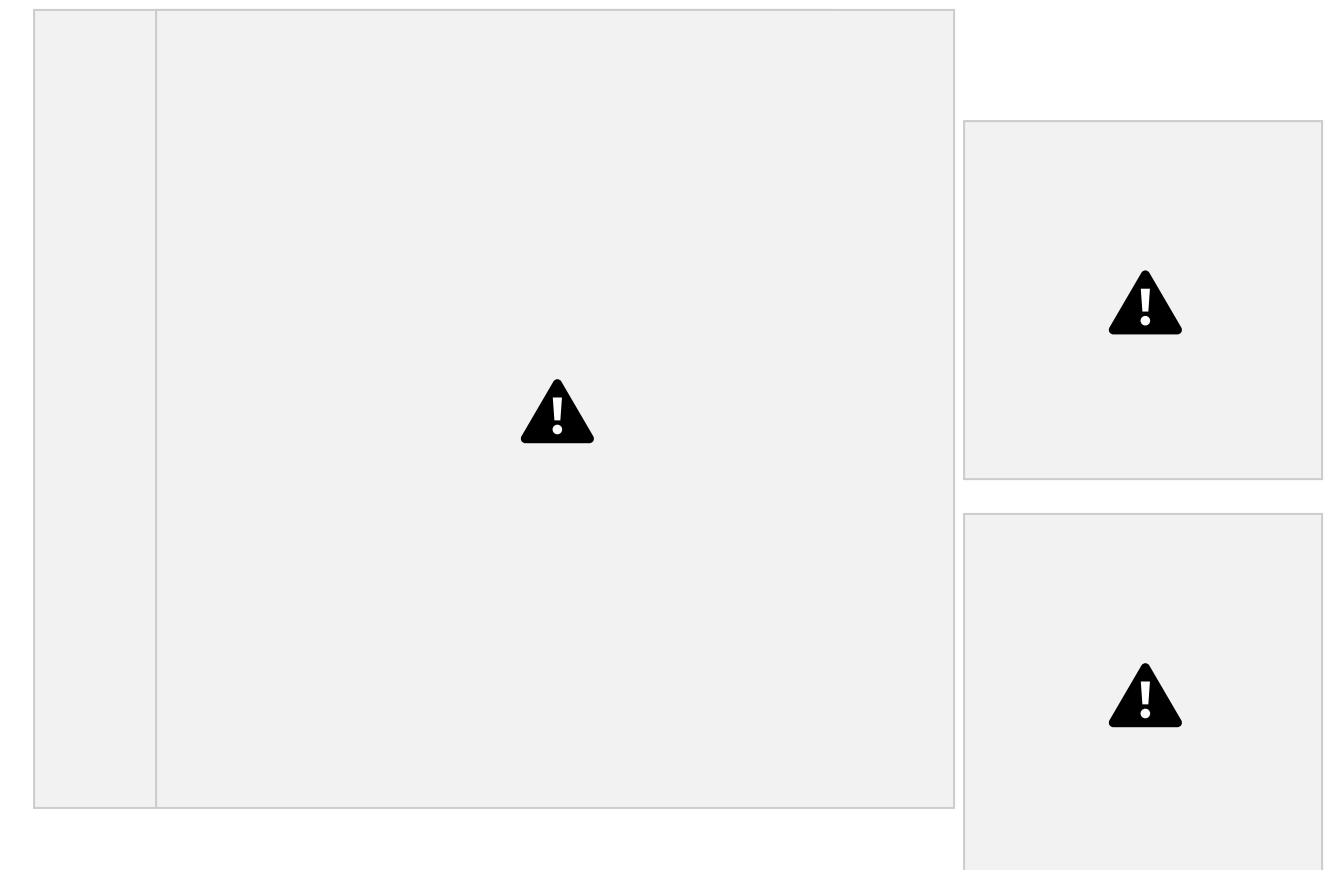
God's fire  
OT P→F

Pu<sub>r</sub>if<sub>y</sub> (Ma<sub>l</sub> 3:2-3) Remove Rom 10:1-2

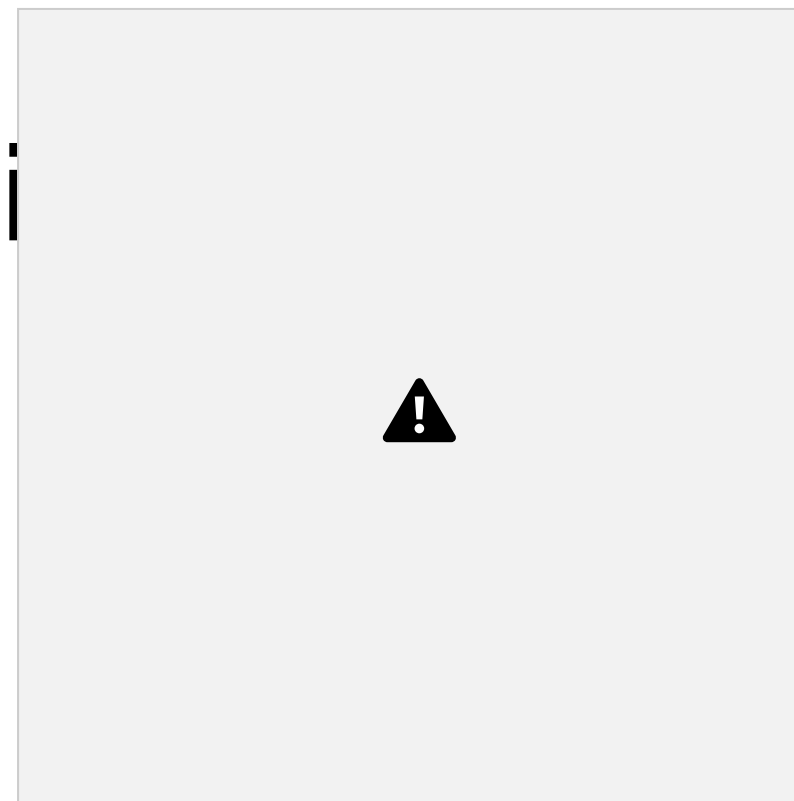
si<sup>n</sup> (Is 6:5-8)



KoH



Mt 3:11-12  
Baptism wi  
Strange fire  
Lv 10:1-2



Hell

Wheat into barn Inward  
Jews

Hearts burning with

passion Lk 24:27, 32-25

Jews

Chaff burned up Outward

**Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord.**

**Lv 10:1-2**

**Brethren, my heart's desire and  
my prayer to God for them is for  
their salvation. For I testify  
about them  
that they have a zeal for God, but  
not in accord with**

# knowledge.

## Rom 10:1-2

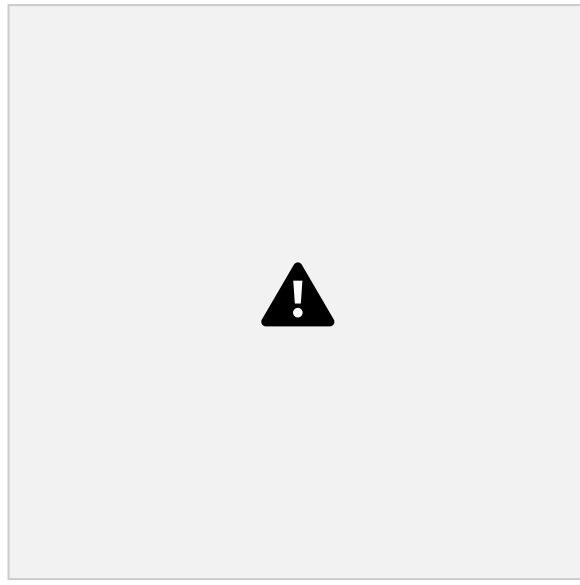
# Fiery judgment at the 1st coming

Jesus

Pharisees

Judgment (Mal 4:1, Is  
42:25→Mt 23)



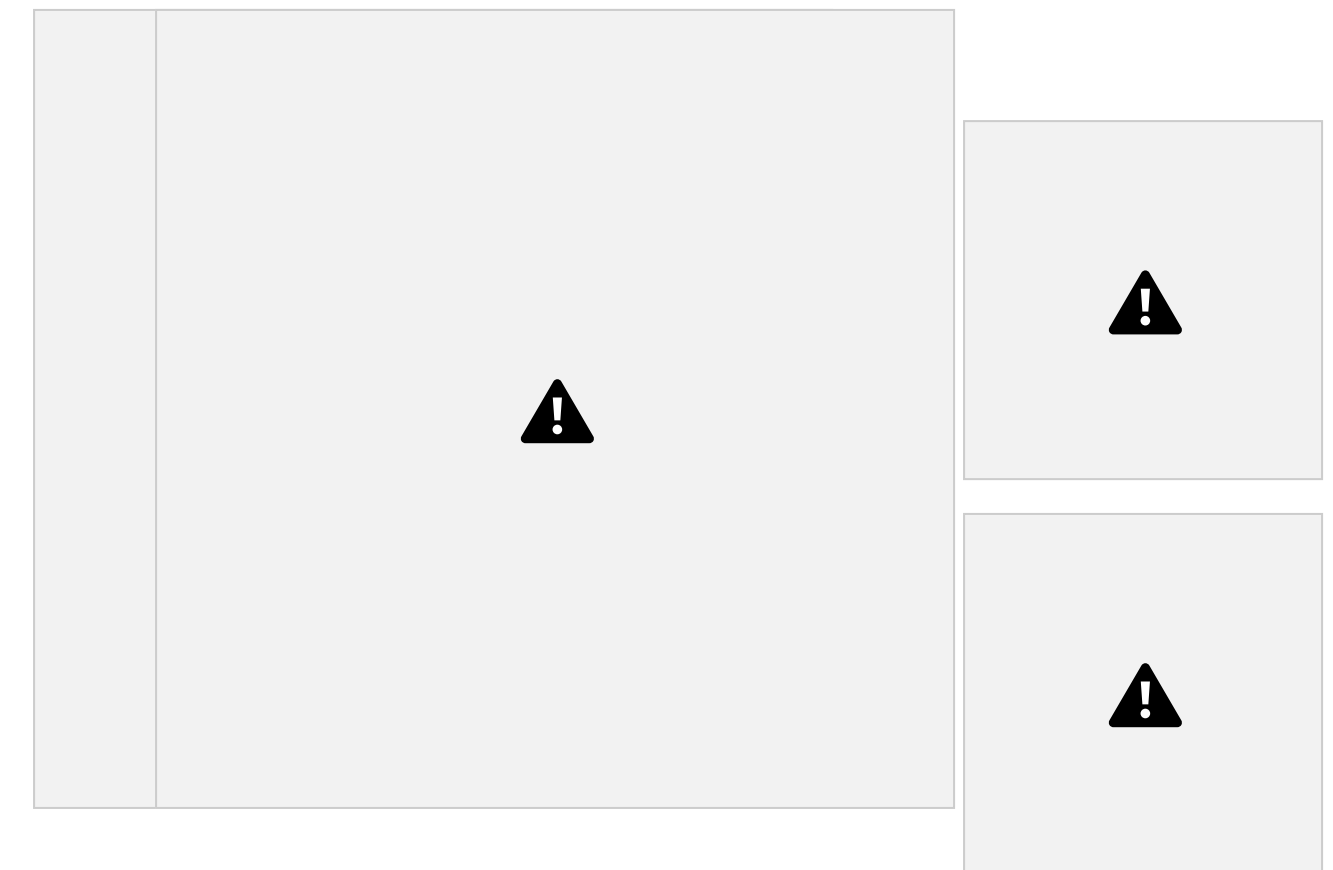


Open Word

God's fire  
OT P → F

Purify (Mt 3:2-3) Remove

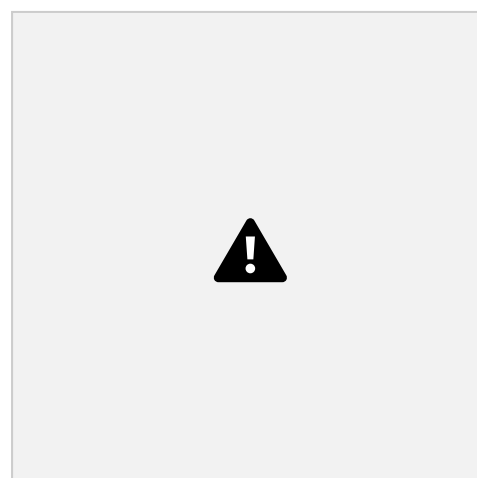
sin (Is 6:5-8)



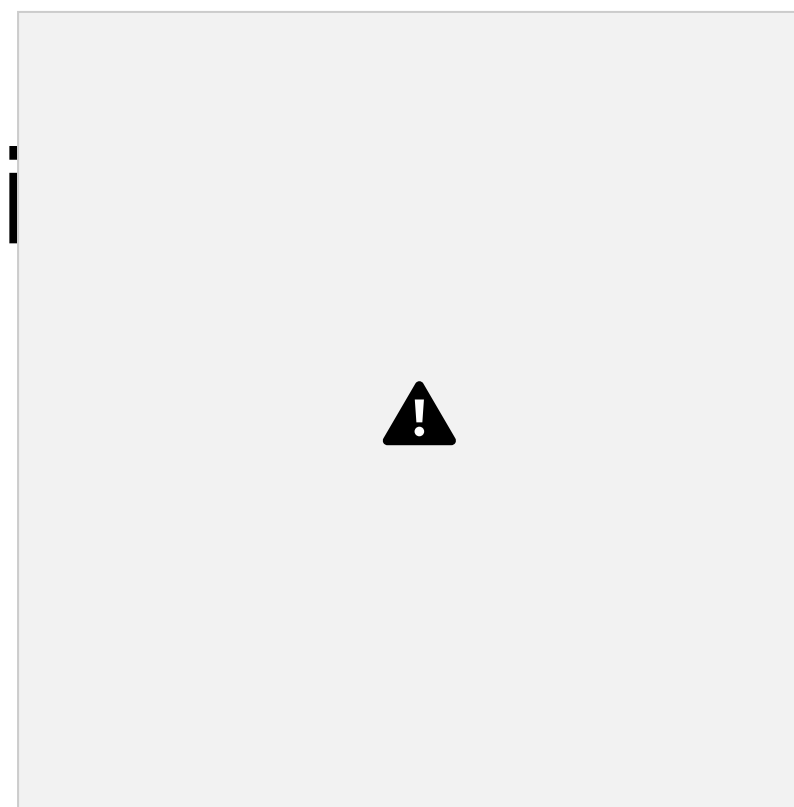
Hell



KoH



Mt 3:11-12  
Baptism with  
Strange fire  
Lv 10:1-2  
Rom 10:1-2



Wheat into barn Inward  
Jews

Hearts burning with

passion Lk 24:27, 32-25

Chaff burned up Outward Jews

# Fiery judgment at the 2nd coming

Witnesses False

teachers

Rv 8:5-7





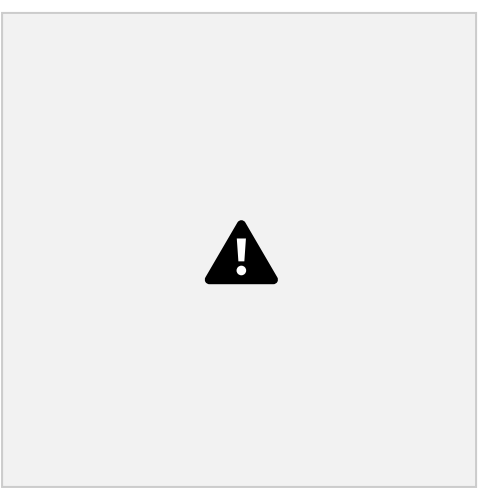
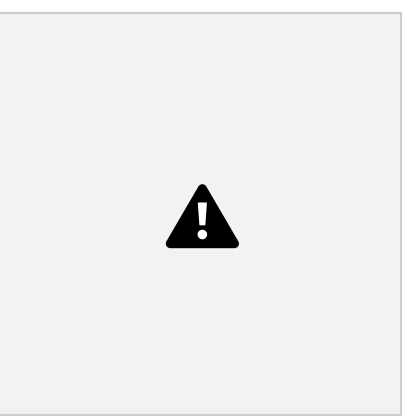
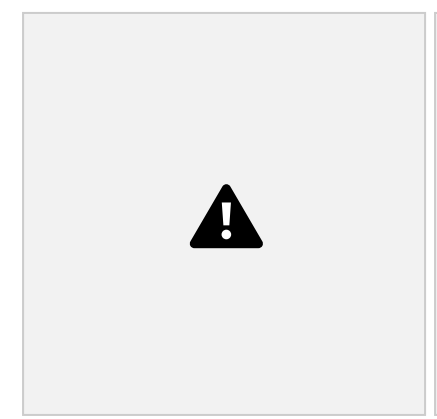
Open Word

God's fire  
NT P → F

Fiery judgment upon earth

Purified by fire 2 Pt

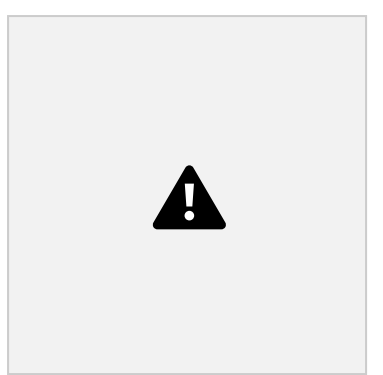
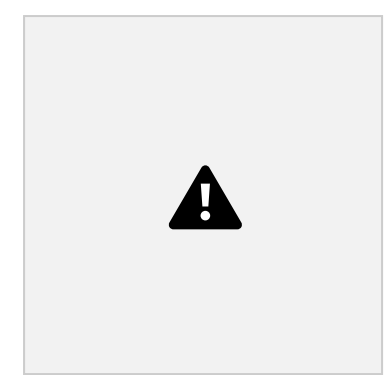
3:10-13



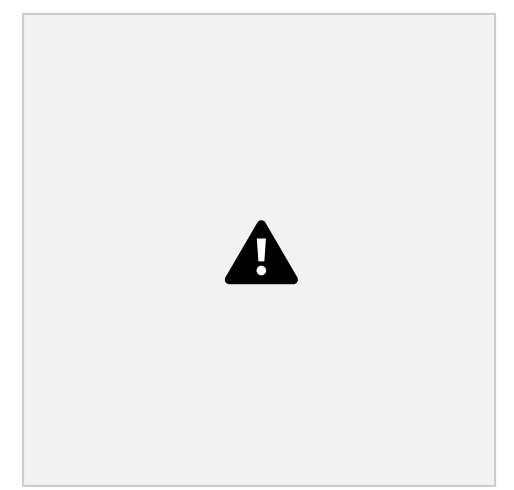
KoH

Rv 3:17-18

Purified with fire



Hell



Satan's fire

Rv 9:17, 13:13, 16:8-9

Wheat into barn Inward  
Christians

Burn the field  
Mt 13:24-30, 36-43

Hearts burning with  
passion Rv 3:15-16

**Chaff burned up** **Outward Christians**

**But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.**

## 2 Pt 3:10-13

**'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because **you are lukewarm**, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me **gold refined by fire so that you may become rich**, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint**

**your eyes so that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent.**

## **Rv 3:15-19**

# **Summary and conclusion**

- Fire is used as a symbol for God's word of judgment because of the two outcomes depending on how it is received.
- Those who accept the judgment and repent are purified, while those who arrogantly reject it are destroyed by it.
- Just as Jesus cast fire at the 1st coming and those who accepted it were purified as God's



people, the fire coming from the mouths of the witnesses of the fulfillment in the last days can purify those humble enough to repent and throw away their misunderstandings of God's will.

Let's pray

