

I. Intro

A. Text: **Luke 12:49-53**

⁴⁹ “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished! ⁵¹ Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. ⁵² For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. ⁵³ Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” (Lk. 12:49-53)

B. Jesus' 2nd Coming Is Marked By Fire

1. Earth Judged by Fire (**2 Pet. 3:7**)

But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (2: Pet. 3:7)

a. Jesus Returns w/ His Angels in Fire

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess. 1:7b-8)

C. First Things First

1. Coming Fire is Preceded by Christ's Suffering on the Cross

⁴⁹ “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰ But I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how distressed I am till it is accomplished (Luke 12:49-50)

a. Jesus' 1st earthly assignment was to take on the full wrath of the Father.

- i. He was constricted, pressed (pressured), constrained on every side to do so.
- b. Jesus had laser focus on the cross, long before He ever walked up Calvary's hill.

2. Fire is Accompanied by Jesus Radically/Violently Establishing Peace

⁵¹ Do you suppose that I came to give peace on earth? I tell you, not at all, but rather division. (Luke 12:51)

- a. Jesus' focus is on authentic, eternal peace (where every enemy of His is annihilated).
- b. Not superficial peace (where folks simply agree to disagree).
- c. This real peace will be preceded by incredible division and dissension.
 - i. Enemies will be those of his own household (Matt. 10:36)

⁵² For from now on five in one house will be divided: three against two, and two against three. ⁵³ Father will be divided against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law." (Lk. 12:52-53)

- ii. Unprecedented love for Jesus above all others will expose unprecedented hatred for those who love Jesus with type of abandonment.
- iii. Family members will turn on other family members simply because they love Jesus.

He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. (Matt. 10:37)

II. Body

A. The Hard Saying

⁴⁹ "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! (Luke 12:49)

1. Presence of God

- a. **Ex. 19:16-18**: Thunderings, lightnings, earthquakes and smoke like a furnace.
 - i. The Lord descended upon the mountain in fire.
- b. **Dan. 7:9-10**: Vision of the Ancient of Days

⁹ “I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰ A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened. (Dan. 7:9-10)

- c. **2 Thess. 1:6-8**: Jesus will return in flaming fire to take vengeance on enemies of God.

2. The Punishment/Judgment of God

- a. **Lev. 10:1-3**: Nadab and Abihu offered profane fire, so the Lord rained down fire from heaven that devoured them.
- b. **Num. 16:31-35**: The fire of God came and consumed Korah and 250 men who rebelled against Moses.
- c. **Rev. 21:8**: The cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolater, liars shall have their part in the lake of fire and brimstone.

3. Approval of God

- a. **Lev. 9:23-24**: Fire came from the Presence of the Lord and consumed the offering.
 - i. Endorsed the Aaronic priesthood.
- b. **1 Kings 18:24-38**: Elijah called on the God who answers by fire to prove that He alone is God... and that Elijah was His servant.

4. Power of God

- a. **Matt. 3:11**: *¹¹ “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.

5. **The Passion of God**

- a. **Luke 24:31-32:** Eyes were opened, and they knew him. When Jesus vanished, “Did not our hearts burn within us?”
- b. **Rev. 1:10-16:** Fire In His Eyes

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:12-16)

B. Recap

1. Presence
2. Punishment
3. Approval
4. Power
5. Passion
6. Proving/Testing

III. Conclusion

⁴⁹ “I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! (Luke 12:49)

A. **The Proving/Testing Of God**

1. Rejoice in the middle of various trials because we are being kept by the master goldsmith/silversmith.

⁶ *In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials,* ⁷ *that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.* (**1 Pet. 1:6-7**)

- a. Compares our Faith (in Him) To Precious Gold.
- b. Like gold, genuine faith will be tested by fire (trials, tribulations, etc.)
 - i. His desire is for only that which brings praise, honor and glory to Christ.
- c. Jesus promises to rid us of all impurities and imperfections.
- d. Fire is painful to us, but deadly/disastrous to that which is not gold.

2. The fires in a believer's life are never out of control.

- a. God uses the fire of affliction for our good.

¹⁰ *Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction.* (**Is. 48:10**)

- b. God skillfully uses the fire of tribulation (pressure) to produce in us that which was never visible before. (**Rom. 5:3-5**)

3. God is coming back for a purified, glorious church (without spot or wrinkle).

- a. God's primary form of purification is fire.
- b. When we invite Jesus to come, we invite the fire that comes along with him.
- c. We invite the fire of His Presence, His Passion, His Approval, His Punishment, His Power, His Proving/Testing.

"Jesus came to send fire on the earth. And how we wish that it were already kindled." (**Luke 12:49**)

- d. When we pray for to be in the Presence of Jesus, we are certainly praying for fire.

- i. **Mal. 3:2-3**: *"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 launderers' soap. ³He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness.*