



Lights and Perfection, Inc.

Go and make disciples!

E-votional 97

Fire Fell

2 Chronicles 7:1-3 (ESV),

As soon as Solomon finished his prayer, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD filled the LORD's house. When all the people of Israel saw the fire come down and the glory of the LORD on the temple, they bowed down with their faces to the ground on the pavement and worshiped and gave thanks to the LORD, saying, "For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever."

1 Kings 18:36-39 (ESV),

And at the time of the offering of the oblation, Elijah the prophet came near and said, "O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel, and that I am your servant, and that I have done all these things at your word. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, that this people may know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you have turned their hearts back." 38Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The LORD, he is God; the LORD, he is God."

Praise the Lord! The fire fell!

I have to say that this is absolutely remarkable. On one hand, God is blessing the prayer of Solomon and also the dedication of the Temple by fire and on the other hand, God is calling for judgment of idolatry in Israel's case through Elijah by fire.

When I read this I have to say I was going through a spiritual dryness and coldness like never before. And so it was that I came upon Solomon's prayer of dedication and also how immediately after his prayer fire fell from heaven. I

said, Lord, please, let the fire fall into my heart as I need You now more than ever.

On the one hand, I realized that this fire was a blessing. Yet all the while I also realized that this fire was a judgment and a cleansing. Let me explain. In my case, I knew if the fire I was asking for fell, there may be because of the fire areas that need a dramatic change in my heart. So when desiring for the fire to fall, I know it is a time of blessing and renewal but also of transformation and judgment and cleansing. Honestly, we all need this on a personal level.

However, in both Solomon's and Elijah's instances these events were on a national level. This really is my main purpose in sharing what God has laid on my heart. We are no doubt in a national crisis and need the fire to fall. The people of the world in this nation have gotten so far off base it is almost unbelievable. Also to note is that even the church, who are supposed to be God's people have gotten even farther off base. We have somehow as God's people allowed some serious false teachings to persuade us that do not make any sense. Christian denominations are divisive over everything and it seems like there is no passion left. Many major leaders in Christendom are falling into lasciviousness and sin at an alarming rate. Even the pope is giving approval for things that must not even be named among true believers. And even more, Christians have left hearing the voice of God and following Him for following their own versions of Him. So when sharing these passages of Scripture, I find more relevance than I would like to admit.

However, this is not a message of discouragement but one of encouragement. I say this because we as the true church of the Lord Jesus Christ are put in a unique position to call down Holy Fire from Heaven. Now, as a disclaimer here, I am not saying a literal fire that hurts people but one that will enliven and awaken the dry bones of the church first and then the world. Hallelujah!

In Solomons's case, they were dedicating the Temple to the Lord and establishing a new covenant of worship and God was blessing that with fire from heaven. In Elijah's case, the people of Israel were given to idolatry and sin. Elijah called for a contest between the false prophets of baal and himself, their god, and Elijah's God. Elijah offered a sacrifice and so did the false prophets. The one who was to answer won the contest and proved who was the True and Living God. We know how the story goes. Elijah prayed and fire fell from Heaven and consumed the sacrifice. After all, our God is a consuming fire.

So it was Solomon's case was a fire of blessing and in Elijah's, it was a sign of judgment to the people of God who had fallen away into sin and idolatry and who or what they had been worshipping was false. I guess the point is this to be

very blunt. Are we as the Lord's Temple going to be blessed or judged? This is a call to action to live holy and upright lives by the power of God through Jesus Christ and to prepare your hearts for the fire from heaven.

Remember fire can purify. So when silver is being purified there is a separation that takes place. The separation is the pure from the impure. So it is with us individually. When God is doing that perfect work in us He removes the impure leaving way for the pure. But rarely do we talk about this event taking place on a corporate level. Notice earlier I shared about the individual work but also noted that in both Solomon's and Elijah's case it was for a national purpose, thus the idea of corporate. What am I saying then?

Well, very simply, I believe through the Holy Spirit that there is beginning a work of God whereby the fire from heaven falls. When this happens it will separate the pure from the impure. I would like to add for those studied in end times that I am not referring to the last days separating of the sheep from the goats necessarily. I say this because I want to point out that I am not speaking about the wrath of God being poured out upon sinners. I am, however, speaking about a fire of purification that will separate the true believers from the false and so the purification of the church, the bride of Christ.

This is encouraging to the true believers because there is in us a birth pain for something more than what many are experiencing today. We desire and are encouraged in the Lord Jesus Christ to share that there is a day coming for the true saints of God where God radically pours out His Spirit and fire upon all who trust in Him and purifies them for His own pleasure and glory. We who believe in Christ are all too aware of the deceitfulness of this flesh and the ways of the world and are doubly grieved by the weakness that the people of God are experiencing. We desire the fire to fall to give purity to the church and to unite us together in the one true faith under the One True and Living God.

In both Solomon's case and Elijah's when the fire fell so did the people. Let me explain. When the fire fell, immediately the people fell on their faces in true humility and worship and awe. I tell you the truth brothers and sisters what we are experiencing in the churches today does not look like that. Therefore be encouraged for the true worshippers are rising even now and the fire will fall, in Jesus name Amen. Hallelujah!

The Lord bless you and keep you all in the grace, mercy, and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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In Christ's Love,
Chris and Jeanne
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