**R771\_Rumination for 17 Nov. 2019**

The **T**heme: **The Fire of the Lord** [[berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *For the LORD thy God is a consuming* ***fire****, even a jealous God.* Deut. 4:24

The **T**hots:

1. **The “Fiery” Character of the Lord:**
2. The **S**tatement re: His **P**erson: *The LORD thy God is a consuming* ***Fire****, even a jealous God.* Deut. 4:24
3. The **S**ign of His **P**owerful **P**resence as a **F**lame of **F**ire – Exo. 3:2

*The angel of the LORD appeared unto him* [Moses] *in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush:*

*and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed.*

1. His **S**ure **P**romise to conquer Israel’s **F**oes for them. Deut. 9:3  *Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is He which goeth over before thee;*

*as a consuming fire He shall destroy them, and He shall bring them down before thy face:*

*so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee.*

1. **The Fire of the Lord…**
2. It was **S**upernatural **P**ower – it **S**hot out from the Tent of the Tabernacle to burn the **S**acrifice. Lev. 9:24

*And there came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering*

*and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.*

1. It was the **S**ign of God’s **P**resence in the **S**ight of His people: Exo. 40:38 *For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night,*

*in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.*

1. **S**inners were **S**lain by it as a **P**unishment from the Lord – Num. 11:1 cf. 11:3
2. *And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it;*

*and His anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them.*

1. *He called the name of the place Taberah [a burning]; because the fire of the Lord burnt among them*
2. Two **S**ons of the High **P**riest were **S**lain for offering **S**trange Fire: Num. 3:4 *Nadab and Abihu died before the LORD, when they offered strange fire before the LORD,*

*…Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the LORD.* 26:61

1. It **S**howed up the **F**alse gods just as the **F**ire of the Lord **S**howed **P**roof of Elijah’s true God. I Kgs. 18:38

*Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones,*

*and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

1. **The Focus of our Lord’s Supper**
2. “**F**ire” burnt in the hearts of the Two Disciples walking to Emmaus with the Lord. Lk. 24:13, 30-32 *They* ***S****aid one to another, Did not our heart burn [kaiō, lit. = set on fire] within us,*

*while He talked with us by the way, and while He opened to us the scriptures?* Lk. 24:32

1. The **F**ocus of the **S**ight of the Disciples when the Lord **S**upped with them. Lk. 24:30-31

*It came to pass, as He sat at meat with them, He took bread, and blessed it, and brake,*

*and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and* ***they knew Him****…*

1. What **S**hould our **F**irst **P**riority be at the Lord’s **S**upper?
2. **R**emember Him: I Cor. 11:24-26
3. *And when He had given thanks, He brake it, and said,*

*Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*

1. *After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying,*

*This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

1. *For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till He come.*
2. **R**evere (Worship) Him:
3. Do not Offer ***Strange Fire***, i.e. Fire not from the Altar of Sacrifice where the Offering Died. Num. 3:4
* Ct. His **B**ody was **B**roken for us; His **B**lood was Shed for us – He died for us!
1. Do not Offer ***Strange Incense***, i.e. **I**ncense not made from the prescribed **I**ngredients. Exo. 30:9, 34-37
* Incense Relates to Worship – *Ye shall worship before one altar, and burn incense upon it.* II Chr. 32:12

*God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.* Jn. 4:24

 Thus, **R**emember Him in His Death, Burial, **R**esurrection and soon **R**eturn for us.

 Until then, let us **R**evere Him.

*Elijah’s God still lives today And answers still by fire;*

*My friend, just let Him have His way; He’ll grant your heart’s desire.*

*Consume the sacrifice you make, And bid your slumbering soul awake;*

 *The chains of inbred sin will break; Elijah’s God is living.* [Will­iam Grum](http://www.hymntime.com/tch/bio/g/r/u/grum_w.htm%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 771**

1. *For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.* Deut. 4:24

The **C**haracter of God as a Jealous God:

Can God ever be *Jealous*? He is Jealous with respect to His not allowing any one else

 to receive any honour due to Him and Him alone.

Thus, He specifically told His people:

Isa. 42:8 – *I am the LORD: that is My name: and My glory will I not give to another,*

 *neither My praise to graven images.*

Isa. 48:11 – *For Mine own sake, even for Mine own sake, will I do it:*

*for how should My name be polluted?...I will not give My glory unto another.*

 The **C**onduct of God as a Jealous God:

The Lord God Himself thus stated most specifically what He meant by His jealousy (or lit. *zealous*) *for Jehovah thy God is a fire consuming--a zealous God.* Deut. 4:24, YLT

 Because He is a Jealous God, He said to His people:

 Deut. 5:9 – *Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me.*

 Deut. 32:16 – *They provoked Him to jealousy with strange gods, with abominations*

 *provoked they Him to anger.*

 Deut. 32:21 – *They have moved Me to jealousy with that which is not god;*

*they have provoked Me to anger with their vanities:*

*and I will move them* to *jealousy with those which are not a people;*

*I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.*

The **C**onsuming Fire of God’s Jealousy struck when His people gave His honour to idols,

His “Jealous” Fire would Consume all parties involved; thus, **Deuteronomy 32:20-26 (HCSB)**

*He said: I will hide My face from them; I will see what will become of them, for they are a perverse generation— unfaithful children. They have provoked My jealousy with ⌊their⌋ so-called gods; they have enraged Me with their worthless idols. So I will provoke their jealousy with an inferior people; I will enrage them with a foolish nation. For* ***fire has been kindled*** *because of My anger and burns to the depths of Sheol; it devours the land and its produce, and scorches the foundations of the mountains. I will pile disasters on them; I will use up My arrows against them.*

It is indeed a fearful thing to fall into the consuming fire of a jealous God! **REFLECT**.

1. Consider the Cases where **the Fire of the Lord** Struck or will Strike:
* It Consumed the Sacrifice on the Altar. Lev. 9:24

*There came a fire out from before the LORD, and consumed upon the altar the burnt offering*

*and the fat: which when all the people saw, they shouted, and fell on their faces.*

* It Consumed Elijah’s Sacrifice I Kgs. 18:38

*Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood,*

*and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.*

* It will Consume Satan and his rebels at the end of the Millennium: Rev. *20:7-8*

*And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,*

*And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.*

* It will Consume (but not annihilate) all Cast into the Lake of Fire:

**Revelation 20:10 –** *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever*.

* **Revelation 20:14 –** *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*
* **Revelation 20:15 –** *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

And the Challenge to all Christians today is: II Pet. 3:10-12

*…the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.* ***Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?* REFLECT Points To Ponder:**

*Be ever Zealous to please our Jealous God and Give Him Glory at all times.*