



Baptised with fire

Matthew 3:11 ESV

"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.



God fire stories

- Abraham and the burning torch (Genesis 15:27)
- Moses at Mt Sinai (Exodus 19:18)
- Aaron and the priestly burnt offering (Leviticus 9:24)
- Manoah and the Angel of the Lord (Judges 13:20)
- David and the burnt offering on the threshing floor of Araunah (1 Chronicles 21:26)
- Solomon and the burnt offering in the new temple (2 Chronicles 7:1)
- Elijah vs the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:42)
- Cain and Abel (Perhaps?)



Our God is a consuming fire

Hebrews 12:28-29 NKJV

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. For our God is a consuming fire.



Fire: God's calling card

Fire from Heaven revealed / confirmed the identity of God
God revealed Himself to Moses from the burning bush as I AM

The disciples travelling to Emmaus didn't recognise Jesus after He had risen.

Luke 24:32

And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?"



Face down: The response to fire from Heaven

Lev 9:24

When all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

Judges 13:20

When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground.

1 Kings 18:39

Now when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!"



What does this mean for us today?

1Kings 18:21

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him." But the people answered him not a word.

- God, in His mercy, can reveal Himself even to a faithless generation
- All He needs is an acceptable sacrifice on the altar
- We are called to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, the Lamb of God
- His fire is an undeniable witness that turns hearts.



Becoming like Christ

- Jesus gave His life as a sacrifice so that we wouldn't have to pay the price for our own sins.
- Now that we are free, we are called to emulate Jesus and lay down our lives so that others too can turn to Him.

1 Kings 18:30-40

Come near to me	Transparency
12 stones	Unity
Putting the wood in order	The cross of Jesus Christ
12 pots of water	God loves a challenge.

- It ensures that no one else gets the glory



God is still in the business of turning hearts

1Kings 18:37-38

Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that You *are* the LORD God, **and that You have turned their hearts back to You again.** Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood and the stones and the dust, and it licked up the water that *was* in the trench.

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And **he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children. And the hearts of the children to their fathers.** Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

