

"For behold, the Lord will come in fire, His chariots shall be like the stormy wind, to render His anger with fierceness, and His rebuke with flames of fire.

For BY FIRE will the Lord execute judgment, and by His sword, upon all flesh: and the slain of the Lord shall be many". (Isaiah 66:15-16 Amplified)

BY FIRE!

by Ray Prinzing

"For, lo, Jehovah in fire cometh, and as a hurricane His chariots, to refresh in fury His anger, and His rebuke in flames of fire. For BY FIRE and by His sword, doth Jehovah do judgment with all flesh, and many have been Jehovah's pierced ones." (Isaiah 66:15,16) (Young's translation)

There has been much misconception concerning the FIRE of God, and while we would not dare to think we grasp all the answers, we would like to present some of the thoughts which God has quickened to our heart by His Spirit. For "by fire" will the Lord plead with "ALL" flesh. The word plead (Hebrew, shaphat) is correctly translated by Young as "do judgment," with all flesh. The word "JUDGMENT" actually refers to the corrective processes of God, the training up, the disciplining or girding up, bringing into alignment wayward creation. And in this great process of restoration, the Lord is going to use FIRE as part of his dealing with us all.

Let me give you Moffatt's translation for this verse: "On the WHOLE WORLD the Eternal will pass sentence with His fire and sword." I like the emphasis that is given for ALL FLESH, when he says, THE WHOLE WORLD - for not one person is going to miss the hand of God in this operation. But, the application of FIRE is going to be far different than much of our past conception, or shall I say, of traditional teaching of error. For first of all, God has quickened to us the truth which has changed our understanding greatly, when He caused us to know that FIRE IS REMEDIAL IN ITS PURPOSE. And through we didn't always understand it that way, thank God for the revelation given by His Spirit. There is a remedy that is wrought out by the process of FIRE.

As we begin to delve into our subject now, we turn to 1 Kings 18:24,38,39 "And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the Lord: and the God that answereth BY FIRE, let him be GOD. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken. 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. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, THE LORD, HE IS THE GOD." Hallelujah!

I don't think we need much comment on the verses that surround the ones we have given, you have read about these prophets of Baal, how they cut themselves, they shouted and danced, had themselves a good "religious" hoe-down, they jumped over the altar: (benches), they did all they could think of to bring the power down - with Elijah standing over on the side urging them on. But their god did not answer by fire; he didn't begin to answer at all. But when it drew nigh for that time of the evening sacrifice, and all the people fell on their face, and said, THE LORD, HE IS THE GOD. Glory! Hallelujah: The confession was caused by the God who answered BY FIRE.

Beloved, God is going to deal in such a manner with all creation, this world in which we live, till God's fire process will cause every man to say, The Lord, He is GOD. There must needs be a turning again of hearts to the Lord, but it is going to take more than just a harem-scarem preacher telling about all the flames of some hell wherein you shall burn forever and forever, and it is going to take more than the other extreme, where one talks dreamily of a beautiful Isle of Somewhere, out beyond the blue. Rather it is going to be THE TRUTH OF GOD brought forth by the power of

divine anointing. For it is going to be BY FIRE that God will bring all things back into the realm of righteousness.

Gehenna and the Fires of Tophet

There are two thoughts we want to consider before our subject progresses too far, the first is on HELL FIRE and the second is on THE LAKE OF FIRE. Our English word "hell" is translated to cover three words used in the Greek, (1) Tartaroo, used for the abode where the wicked are sent; (2) Hades, simply meaning the UNSEEN state; (3) Geenna, referring to the valley of Gehenna. It is this last one that we have reference to, for we are not referring to just some unseen realm, or place of departed spirits, which is signified by the words of Tartaroo and Hades, but we are specifically pointing out a truth concerning Gehenna, i.e. hell fire.

Briefly as possible we'll give the setting of the valley of Gehenna. In the walls of Jerusalem there were a number of gates, during Old Testament times, and one of them was called the "Valley Gate", which led to the valley of Hinnom, from which we get the name, now used, "GEHENNA". This valley was a place of perpetual burning. All the refuse of the city was carried forth and burned there. And there are so many ramifications which we cannot take space for now - going out of the city via this gate speaks of humility, as we say unto the Lord, "O Lord, here is a lot of flesh, purge me of it." Many types here are applicable, but the fact remains, IT WAS NOT A DWELLING PLACE; it was only there for the burning of refuse.

There was, however, a certain location in this valley called Tophet (meaning, altar). Here sacrifices were offered and dead bodies were buried or consumed. And Isaiah prophesied concerning this place TOPHET as the place prepared for the destruction of the king of Assyria, reading, Isaiah 30:33, "for Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared: he hath made it deep and large; the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the Lord, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it." Of course this is all spoken of symbolically, they didn't find the king of Assyria and throw him into this great pit filled with wood and fire, and burn him up. No, it's used as a type of the bringing to nought of the power of the Assyrian king.

Keep this in mind, God uses a natural manifestation to typify a greater work. And in our subject, a spiritual work that shall be wrought out. We are not referring to literal flames and pits when we speak of how there shall be a purging of all creation BY FIRE. This has a greater meaning altogether. I don't know where men ever get their sadistic ideas of literal flames which shall engulf bodies that pulsate with keen feelings. And if you ask why they won't get burned up, you will be told that God gave them special bodies which aren't destroyed by the fire, but in which they shall be tormented for ever. And why, I wonder, if according to their teaching God can miraculously give them a body that doesn't burn up, doesn't He just plain clean them up and take them out of such a pit. Christendom has a doctrine of torment that actually admits there is a devil who has power to accomplish an eternal devastation which their God cannot correct. Surely the traditions of the elders is a gross caricature of the character, power, and love of our glorious Redeemer.

But anyway, this place called Tophet signified a spot in the valley of Gehenna where burnings were made for the disposing of refuse. Now, when the children of Judah began to err from the ways of the Lord, began to follow after the ways of the heathen, they caused their children to pass through the fires of Tophet. This WRONG USE of the place caused Jeremiah to strongly cry out against them for it. Jeremiah 7:31, "And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to BURN THEIR SONS AND THEIR DAUGHTERS IN THE FIRES; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart."

How many are willing to follow after the ways of such heathens, and offer their offspring to the fires, now called HELL? But it wasn't intended for that purpose at all, it was a place to bury the

dead, to burn the refuse, and to purge out the uncleanness, lest everything become corrupted by the filth in the land. That was the complete Biblical use of Tophet, which was in the valley of Hinnom. AND IT HAS NEVER ENTERED INTO THE THOUGHTS OF GOD'S HEART FOR MANKIND TO BE MADE TO DWELL IN SUCH A PLACE FOR EVER AND EVER. God has His plan for FIRE - yes, for BY FIRE will the Lord plead with all flesh, doing judgment, correcting and purging the whole earth, including your and me! But I am not sending you to hell, nor am I sending you to a lake of fire, I am just telling you that we shall ALL go thru the purging process of God's fire, ere we come to our destined place of holiness and purity in God.

The Lake of Fire

And death and hell (hades) were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (Revelations 20:14). Also, the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. (Revelations 21:8).

Again we would remind you that Revelation is written in symbolic language-- "And He sent and signified it by His messenger unto His servant John." (Revelations 1:1) He made things known by SIGNS. May God give us the needed understanding to discern the meaning of the signs, comprehending the meaning behind the figures. God's kingdom is not primarily of material things - GOD IS SPIRIT, and though He might manifest certain things in material form, the essence thereof is spirit. And so when we speak of a lake of fire we are not to suppose that it is a great lake filled with literal flames as the fire on has in their stove or fireplace.

Consider first the word "lake", for it is parallel to the thought of a valley, for what is a lake? It is a valley filled with water - only this one is filled with fire, symbolic language used. At one time Israel had to pass through the Red Sea, a valley filled with water, through which God made a path. Paul likened it to a baptism, 1 Corinthians 10:2. So also there shall be those who will pass through a "lake of fire", thus to be purified unto God, by this purging experience.

And then we have the word "brimstone" included, comes from the Greek word "theion" and means Divine fire or sulphur. The root word is "theos" which is used 1326 times in the New Testament as GOD. Then very close to the same is the word "theios" the letter "s" replaces the letter "n" and it has been translated as divine, and godhead. I give these words so that you readily can see that the word BRIMSTONE (theion) actually has reference to a divine ingredient. Brimstone, sulphur it might be called, used for purification in all the sacrifices which were offered. So, the entire thought speaks of AN EXPERIENCE, speaking symbolically of how one passes through a valley of fire, to be thoroughly purified of all uncleanness, i.e. rebellious self.

God is going to answer the agnostic, the critic, the fearful, and the unbelieving, BY FIRE. Beloved, when people will hold the precious truths of God given today at arm's length, afraid to accept them, GOD SHALL DEAL WITH THAT FEAR - BY FIRE. Rebellious opposition and unbelief shall be purged out with the fire. When fear is purged out, love shall rule completely. O, to have a love for the truth in this hour, that we might be willing to accept and submit to it in every part.

Every One Seasoned With Fire

"For every one shall be salted (seasoned) with fire." (Mark 9:49).

Moffatt translated this passage as, "Every one has to be consecrated by the fire of the discipline." Amen.

Under the laws of Israel, all the spoils of their war had to be put through the fire, if it was of that substance which could abide the fire. Wood, cloth, etc. had to be washed with water, but-- "Every thing that may abide the fire, ye shall make go through the fire, and it shall be clean..." (Numbers 31:23) We are as the spoil of the battle which Christ fought, and conquered; we have been brought back, we're the spoils of Calvary, and all of creation that was rescued by that victory has to pass through the fire that it might be cleansed from all the defilement received while bound as captives under the bondage of vanity, sin, death, and the hold of the old Adamic nature.

Now just an added through here-- if you are presently going through the fire, it's because God has reclaimed you, He desire to have you in His house, a vessel meet for the Master's use. Under God's hand you will not only abide the fire, but come forth purified. It only signifies the personal direction of God upon our lives when we feel the fire burning so hot. Give HIM praise, worship and adoration, for He has sovereignty by His grace chosen you NOW to be cleansed and purged completely, that HE might use you in future days. And remember, there shall be vessels of wrath, and those prepared to be vessels of mercy. It's not the vessel of dishonour that feels the pressure now, but the one God has laid hold of to become His vessel unto honour and glory, and they are feeling the effect of present fiery tests to fit them for His use.

Now don't confuse the present purposes of God and the ultimate end of His aionian plan. The ultimate plan is that ALL FLESH shall be judge BY FIRE, but under God's arrangement it is "every man in his own order," (1 Corinthians 15:23), and that is why many folk haven't the slightest idea of what you mean when you say you are now going through the fire, for their purifying shall come at a later time. In God's great drama of the ages all moves at His appointed schedule-- you cannot cast the villain into the fire today, he must first serve his appointed purpose, then to be cleansed and restored again. THERE IS A PRESENT FIRE THAT PERTAINS UNTO YOU, there are future fiery experiences reserved for other divisions-- each in his own order and time.

There are some whom "God hath set the world in their heart..." (Ecclesiastes 3:11), and there are some whom He now is dealing with to TAKE THE WORLD OUT OF THEIR HEART. Some He blinds, some He opens their eyes, and "it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy." (Romans 9:16) Thank God if He now makes manifest His grace in your life, and be swift to YIELD to His every inworking, fearing not the fire, but let it accomplish its full purpose that HE might be glorified in your life.

Fire for the Chaff

"He that cometh after me is mightier than I, He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, AND FIRE; Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matthew 3:11,12).

"I am come to send fire on the earth, and what will I, if it already be kindled." (Luke 12:49).

Our immersion into the Spirit is that by His enablement, we might have the power to pass through all the fiery process which follows. Without the enablement of the Spirit you could not abide the fire, so first He graciously imparts His Spirit, then continues giving increasing measures thereof as the trials arise.

The Spirit's inworkings will mature the wheat kernel, and harden it, and then help us endure the winnowing process while the chaff (self) is removed. And after HE has thoroughly purged His floor, the chaff is all burned; the wheat is gathered into His garner. Thus fire is to burn the chaff, not the harvested wheat.

We also point out, He is not speaking of two separate companies, one of chaff, and another of wheat; every kernel of wheat has its own chaff. Every man has a spirit, given them from God-- for God is the Father of spirits, and if we are His offspring (Acts 17:28), then there dwells a spirit in every man, it is the kernel of life within him. But there is a lot of old chaff surrounding that kernel, protecting it until we come to maturity in Him, and then He begins a stripping process, burning up the chaff, that the life of the kernel within might be made manifest.

O, I suppose that we could say, in a limited manner, every group has those who operate in a chaff realm as they stand on the fringe - they like to be near that place where God is moving, but they are not actually becoming a part of that movement right now.

Now God is after the nucleus, the pure-hearted saints who are seeking for His fulness, and as they come to maturity, the chaff crowd will be shaken off - then they will have to be dealt with, until their own soul is brought into a right place with their Creator. So every one of us now has his own chaff, and every one needs the Spirit of God upon him to be able to abide the processes through which we must pass. "It shall come to pass... I will pour out My Spirit upon ALL FLESH." (Joel 2:28). And God will not send you thru the severest of fire without first pouring out divine enabling that we might come forth all victorious. God is all gracious, He knoweth our frame, and He doesn't plunge us into valleys of fire without first giving a divine revelation by His Spirit to uphold through it all. His mercy endureth to sustain at all times.

If God has called you, giving you a portion of divine truth, and His Spirit-- and you resist His inworkings and will not submit to the processes now, then there is but a "certain fearful looking for judgment and fiery (fire) indignation (zeal), which shall devour the adversaries (opposition)... (Hebrews 10:27).

DEVOUR THE ADVERSARIES - now this doesn't say things which many teach, it doesn't say the fire will eat up all the ungodly. The word "adversary" used here, in the Greek is actually a word meaning CONTRARY, or opposition. If we resist His inworkings, there remains for us a fiery experience that will burn out all the contrariness-- all the rebellion of our self-natures. It didn't say we would be burned up, nor does it imply that we'll stay there for ever, but merely speaks of purging out all the opposition and contrariness.

Fire is Three-Fold

Yes, fire is three-fold. There are three statements in the Word which define "FIRE". First, we read, "Our GOD is a consuming fire." (Hebrews 12:29). There is no need to look outside the Word of God for answers; the scriptures contain the needed definitions. Amen?

God is spirit-- that is His substance. God is love-- that is His nature. God is also light and fire, they are His manifestations. We speak of fiery trials, HE IS IN EVERY ONE OF THEM. May we go even farther? He is the source of the fire in our fiery trial, "HE" is the fire thereof. You say that God's hand is resting upon you-- you say that He has filled with His Spirit and His anointing is upon your life, guiding you into all truth. Then don't be amazed at the fiery testing that is your also, for with every advancing step into new truth, there needs to be a purging out of error and past traditions which are contrary to pure truth.

The fire to burn out the dross is the Holy Spirit God has placed within, Your GOD is your fire. The reason you are conscious of the fire is because there remains something in resistance to the move of God, but after all is brought into submission, it doesn't matter if the circumstances don't change, for by then you have been so changed you no longer consider them as a fire in your life. The Lord places you into a situation which almost "burns" you up, and by your unyieldedness to God you are completely miserable. But when you at last begin to yield to His will, you find that all

of the situation has become a haven, and learning to be content in whatever state you are in, you are no more adversely affected by the fire, you delight in it.

God knows the desire of your heart, and He is answering the desire within to be like Jesus. He says, "Lo I am with you always." Where are you, Lord? I'd like a blessing. God says, "Here I am, I'm the fire which is purging you." HAVE YOU RECOGNIZED HIM AS SUCH? We see Him in the burning bush, don't be afraid, the bush won't be consumed - you aren't going to be burned up by the fire, all that is consumed is the opposition to the will of God. His presence, so holy and pure, is fire to all uncleanness.

There are other kinds of fierce fire, wild fire, they only destroy and lay desolate, BUT GOD IS A FIRE THAT PURIFIES AND BRING INTO RIGHTEOUSNESS. God's mighty fire does not leave you in a state of devastation, He is the same Presence that also BUILDS YOU UP IN FAITH AND LOVE, so that your cleansed life is to His glory. Once the carnal thought and imagination of our mind is purged out, then that same FIRE-PRESENCE illumines to your heart to the glorious life-giving verities of God.

Second, we find that the Word, also, is FIRE. "Is not My WORLD like as a fire? saith the Lord." (Jeremiah 23:29).

"I will make MY WORDS in thy mouth FIRE, and this people wood, and it shall devour them." (Jeremiah 5:15).

The Lord is going to plead with ALL FLESH by fire, it will be by the fire of HIS WORD, and all the false and insipid creeds of man will turn into ashes before the mighty burning truth. Truth alone will cause every mighty burning down into nothingness. The anointed Word, given in a spirit of love, is FIRE. And such truth needs no defense, for as a fire it defends itself; mishandle it, and you will surely be burned.

Thirdly, and all of these do blend together into one, "Who maketh His angels (messengers) spirits, His ministers a flaming fire." (Psalm 104:4).

Note: they are HIS ministers, not some man's. "Ye are bought with a price, be not ye the servants of men." (1 Corinthians 7:23). GOD WILL MAKE HIS MINISTERS A FLAMING FIRE. Also note this word "flaming", it is the same as used in Genesis 3:24, "a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." And it means A FLASHING FIRE, speaking of a sudden or startling burst of light.

Think of it-- when God begins to plead with all flesh by fire, and into all those dark, secret assemblies, suddenly appear His ministers as a flashing, flaming fire, to expose and reveal every under-cover, sneaky, corrupt thing of man. What a consternation it is going to produce. In the midst of the gross darkness covering the earth, suddenly a flashing outburst; GOD ANSWERING BY FIRE, until all will have to shut their mouths and be still, truth at last prevailing. Amen.

The Purpose? To Purify!

"And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall PURIFY the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering into righteousness." (Malachi 3:3). "When He hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." (Job 23:10).

The fire is to try, to assay, prove and purify. The fire is to try, to assay, prove and purify. "The fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts." (Proverbs 17:3).

"That the trial (proof) of your faith... might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ." (1 Peter 1:7).

We read of Joseph, Psalm 105:19, "Until the time that his word came; the Word of the Lord tried him." Yes, God made the very WORD in his mouth FIRE. What were the words in his mouth? All the dreams and visions of coming events. Every time he made mention of them to his brethren, they became fire. If he hadn't uttered them perhaps he might have spared himself some of the trouble that came his way. It was the WORD which he received from God, which was in his own mouth becoming fire, to prove, and try, and purify him, till his word (of release) came, and he emerged a victor; this WORD OF GOD tried him through and through.

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because every man's work shall be REVEALED BY FIRE, and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." (1 Corinthians 3:13).

The fire shall reveal, and prove of what sort - this is not speaking of what quantity, but of what QUALITY. God isn't just interested in quantities of works; this is his hour for securing a REMNANT. But the day will declare of "what sort", what quality, for the PROOF of our faith is found. What is the motive involved in our multiplied works, supposedly for God. There will be quite a revelation in that day! The exposing, the uncovering of every hidden and secret thing, attitude and motive, intent and imagination, REVEALED BY FIRE.

How is all this wrought in coming days? By the fire of God's own PRESENCE, the fire of HIS WORD, the fire of His flaming MESSENGERS. "- with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels (messengers), and in the presence of the Lamb (Jesus)." (Revelations 144:10).

BY FIRE shall the Lord plead with all flesh, in many this is being wrought out now as God leads them deeper into the fellowship of His sufferings, until they shall be completely made comformable unto His "death". Then shall they arise in the fulness of His Presence, TO BECOME HIS FIRE IN THE EARTH, with the message of truth aflame upon their lips. To burn and devour?-- no! To give forth the knowledge of truth which shall deliver and set free those bound with the chains that have so long enslaved them, even sin and death.

Every man in his own order, and some resistant people might find themselves passing through the severest of all fires, but the ultimate end is SECURE IN CHRIST, for even the last enemy, death (including the second death) shall bow before the power of our Redeemer. To Him be power, and glory, and dominion for ever. Amen.

Yes, we must repeat, FIRE IS REMEDIAL IN ITS PURPOSE, for it is identified in the "energy forces" of God to restore all into its original state. It is not divided in its work - part to do evil, part to do good, it is only the perversion of fire that brings forth that negative consequence we have learned fear. And so we praise God for this marvelous inworking, even in us, sever as it might be, for it burns out the dross and illumines the pure, to the glory of our God. The earth shall be filled with the glory of God, even as the waters cover the sea. When God has thoroughly and victoriously purged all with fire, there shall nought remain, but that which shall glorify His Name. Amen.

A Personal Application for Us Today

While we look forward to that consummation of the divine purpose, when all things shall be restored, that redemption's glory might shine out upon a universe so flawless and pure that it can be fully said, "GOD IS ALL IN ALL", yet we realize there is a "present tense living", and so we need to turn our eyes back towards ourselves, and bring the conclusion of our message to bear on the fruition of the fire working in us today.

"Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire. Lest ye corrupt, and make you a graven image... which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee. For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire..." (Deuteronomy 4:15,16,23,24).

Perhaps one of the deepest inworkings of the fire we need today is that of BURNING OUT ALL THE ARTIFICIAL, FALSE IMAGES, the imagery of concept and doctrine and tradition which we have concerning our God. Beloved, GOD IS NOT A MAN - yet we have changed the very image of the incorruptible God, and reduced Him to the form of a man, with all the limitations and weaknesses of our frailty. Jesus Christ took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was found in fashion as a man, that in the partaking of our low estate, HE might redeem us and lift us up, restore us back into the higher realm from which we descended. But GOD IS NOT A MAN, as we read in Numbers 23:19].

Thank God for the inward burnings which shall utterly consume all false imagery that the true reality might remain. Fire works through combustion, and the most familiar of such processes is when the Oxygen (or we might say, Spirit) of the atmosphere combines with the combustible material. Introduce the SPIRIT OF GOD into any given situation and HE will burn out all the dross and restore back into pure spirit form again by His power. Then we note the more rapid the combustion the greater the heat. We would like to be changed in a hurry - but we don't like the intense heat of these fiery transitions. Thus our loving Father works in us only according as we are able to bear it.

Fire also brings added light, thus the very devouring process not only ends the false imagery, but brings forth a clearer revelation of God. Only the pure FIRE OF GOD can end the distorted caricatures of our God - of His purpose, His grace, His love, until all these distortions are swallowed up into the pure reality of His truth and righteousness.

"And say to the forest of the south, Hear ye the Word of the Lord, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour (consume) every green tree in thee, and every dry tree..." (Ezekiel 20:27).

The scripture often speaks of Israel's idolatrous worship as being under "every green tree, and upon every high hill." Thank God for the FIRE which shall bring to nought every present program of man, and all those past dead ones with their hang-over traditions. Far, far too long have we been encumbered with the "dead forms" of godliness, having no life or power. It was impossible to see the "light of heaven" because of the denseness of the forest of tradition and carnal pride of religious men. When the FIRE purges out all this, then shall we find ourselves loosed-- free to worship the Father in spirit and in truth.

We shudder at the fierceness of a forest fire, but we are forced to admit that the debris has accumulated - to the point now that only a clean sweep made BY FIRE can cleanse the whole, and birth a new pure worship. There are plenty of green trees, yes, but they are of man's planting-- man still plans his kingdom-building program. And there are plenty of dry trees, program that have died, but their dead forms still clutter up the ground. But we challenge you to AIDE THE FIRE - for the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall yet cover the whole earth, and we bow to say again, AMEN.

CONSUMING FIRE

By Ray Prinzing

Consuming fire - that now burns,
Devouring all the flesh that spurns
The move of God which now returns
To fuse us into one with God.

Energy force - His power divine,
In perfect balance to align
Each soul that thou dost now refine
Into the harmony of God.

Restoring to our first estate,
Thou didst become the narrow gate
Leading into the way that's strait,
For our returning into God.

Consuming fire - this we know,
That though we're caught within thy throe,
Ere thou dost turn our loss to praise
Acceptable unto our God.

A friend, and not a foe, thou art,
Thus on the altar of our heart
Remain with us, to now impart
The glorious triumph of our God.

Until in Christ we, too, shall be
Fulfillment of the mystery -
A living, bright reality,
Consuming fire of our God!

As it is always written in Ray's publications:

NOT TO BE SOLD - this book is given free, as a ministry of love. That which is contained therein cannot be valued in terms of material goods, but is shared with others because it has become life and light to us. May it be received in the same spirit of love in which it is shared. If there be any thoughts expressed that seem to be the result of only natural thinking, we trust that a little breath of kindness will blow the chaff away, that the kernel of truth might remain to bless.