



KINGDOM CHARACTER

“KINGDOM EMPOWERMENT”

- I. INSTRUCTION: “THINK JEWISH” ...their sign of covenant commitment was circumcision
- A. John’s baptism...(Mt. 3:11a)...compare to sign of covenant in circumcision
1. Water unto _____...not unto salvation; repentance is painful (circumcision)
 2. Preparing the heart for their King...judgment precedes blessing...
 - a. Brokenness was demanded (Ps. 51:17)
 - b. Holiness was the mandate (Heb. 12:14)...circumcised hearts of purity
 - c. Good ____ was needed for the holy seed to germinate (Ps. 51:10)
 - d. Straight narrow path required (Ps. 16:11; Mt. 7:14)
 - e. So they could receive and believe the Truth (Jn. 1:11-12)
 - i. Bearing ____ fruit (Mt. 3:10)
 - ii. Because God planted the tree (Ps. 1:3)
- B. Jesus’ baptism...(11b)
1. With the Holy Ghost and with fire...
 - a. The word “and” is an emphatic conjunction, creating 2 sided coin...
 - b. Joining 2 inseparable nouns as objects of the preposition “with”
 - c. Clearly indicating Jesus’ baptism is 2-fold in power
 2. Comparing _____ things...Scripture with Scripture...(I Cor. 2:13)
 - a. God’s grace in the form of fire...mercies of sanctification, illumination
 - i. The spirit of burning (Isa. 4:4); note it’s different from the spirit of judgment preceding it in this verse, 2 separate prepositional phrases
 - ii. Fire from altar of forgiveness (Isa. 6:6-7; Rev.8:3-5); altar of incense
 - a) Following the repentance of Isaiah’s broken heart
 - b) After he saw the King in His glory (v5)...illumination...
 - c) _____ his sin by grace...sanctification’s fire
 - d) Preparing him for ministry...(v8)
 - e) Fire that blesses his soul _____ and intimately
 - iii. Fire to refine God’s people as pure gold and silver
 - a) Zech. 13:9
 - b) Fire to burn in intimacy...”my God”
 - c) As God often historically used fires of affliction to prepare Jewish _____ for truth (Isa. 48:10; 1 Peter 1:7)
 - iv. Fire from the prophetic forerunner (Mal. 3:1-3)

- a) As a refiner's fire of God's grace and forgiveness
 - b) To _____ people through illumination for ministry (as Isaiah)
 - v. Our God uses fire pro-actively to prevent eternal fires of hell from consuming humble people who are indeed seekers after truth
 - vi. Application...those who _____ the cleansing fires of God's grace choose eternal fires of judgment
- b. God's Person in the form of fire...as the Holy Spirit is His Spirit
 - i. Jesus in the burning bush (Ex. 3:2)...that did not consume
 - a) Angel of the Lord...always protecting, illuminating
 - b) As God's angels that _____ us are ministers of fire
 - i) Ps. 104:4
 - ii) Heb. 1:14...blessing heirs of salvation
 - ii. Pillar of _____ by night (Ex. 13:21)...guidance by the Spirit
 - iii. God's presence on Sinai (Ex. 19:18)...revelation time (fire=light)
 - a) In all His glory which we are to reflect by His Spirit
 - b) 2 Cor. 3:18...fire in our souls
 - i) Bringing conviction (Ps. 18:28)...enlightenment
 - ii) Coals of fire flowing from _____ (Prov. 25:22)
 - c) As Moses was blessed by those enabling fires on Sinai
 - iv. Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2)
 - a) Fulfillment of John's prophecy...baptism of Holy Spirit
 - b) "Like as of fire"...purged of religion, be in a relationship
- c. God's illumination in the form of fire which brings _____
 - i. Lk. 24:27, 31-32
 - ii. Jews were taught that God would confirm promises for them...
 - a) Through the Messiah (Jn. 1:31)
 - b) Jer. 23:29; 31;31-34 (new heart/mind - Heb. 8)
 - c) 2 Cor. 1:20; 3:18

C. KEY PRINCIPLE: Baptism always involves cleansing of self to covenant with God

1. There is a _____ baptism here...parallel phrases grammatically...
 - a. Cleansing by the Spirit
 - b. Cleansing by the fire of illumination and conviction (Emmaus, etc.)
2. Refiner's fire of Malachi 3 as God predicted for the Jew (Mt. 3:11)
3. Baptism is always an act of grace, never of punishment or hell

II. INSIGHT...WHAT ABOUT THE FIRE IN VERSE 12?

- A. Prophetic principle of “telescoping” ...2 major prophecies side-by-side (Cf. Lk. 4:18-21)
- B. The cleansing _____ of fire in v11 is the first coming of Jesus...(redemption)
 - 1. As we also need daily fire in the soul, as Jesus always finishes what He starts
 - 2. Heb.12:1-2.28-29...kingdom living daily reflecting the character of Christ
- C. The damning _____ of the fire in verse 12 is the second coming (judgment)
- D. As God has always promised, His wheat is protected at the Great White Throne
- E. Cf. old hymns of church history, saints who understood this quite well...(pg. 118 – Lenski)

“Come as the fire and purge our heart
Like sacrificial flame.”

“Come, Holy Spirit, from about
With Thy celestial fire;
Come and with flames of zeal and love
Our hearts and tongues inspire.”

“And each believing soul inspire
With Thine own pure and holy fire.”