

The Pathfinder

#277.16

I AM BECOME *THE SECOND DEATH* THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS

(Part 2)

"And **DEATH** and **HELL** were cast into **THE LAKE OF FIRE**. **This is the second death.**" *Revelation 20:14*.

Let us mark the fact that ***THE LAKE OF FIRE*** not only ends, destroys, kills the first death—**IT IS THE SECOND DEATH**. In the ultimate sense, ***Death*** is simply being *void of the life of Christ Jesus*. ***Hell***, by definition of "*hades*," the Greek word from which it is translated, speaks primarily of *the grave, the unseen realm, the place, the abode, the home of the dead*. And it is ***THE LAKE OF FIRE*** wherein ***death and hell are cast***. Verse 16 tells us there is yet some additional refuse that finds itself subjected to this lake: "**And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**"

That which will be going into the lake of fire is **everything that pertains to death**. **Death itself** goes; **hell** (*the abode of the dead*) goes; and **everyone in death and hell whose names are not written in the Book of Life** shall find their place in **the Lake of Fire**. **All death** is cast into **THE LAKE OF FIRE**. Every obtuse thing will find itself in **THE SECOND DEATH** that is made by God of the many members of the Body of His Son Jesus Christ.

There is another lake, and the construction has been by the craft of man. It is a *theological* lake and has been used as a most horrendous threat by religious orders for centuries. The ruse has effectively enslaved human beings by the billions. The hour has come, however, for it to be seen for what it is. The thought of *the Lake of Fire* should not be a dread, but to the contrary. It is part of God's work for humanity's release from sin and death. It is their assurance that all will be well. I agree that it may be a dreadful, foreboding expectation to the carnal man, but it is a promise of life. Be assured that Jesus will never forget those for whom He died, which is every soul of all mankind. He will never subject them to men's religious scenarios of torture in a natural lake that forever burns with molten sulphur. He is certainly making a *Lake of Fire*; but rather than one of diabolic torture that never ends, it burns spiritually within a person's soul and consumes all things contrary to God's life. He remembers them all, and into His flaming embrace. He "*lights their fire*," if you will.

THE FIRST MAN and THE *SECOND* MAN
THE FIRST ADAM and THE *LAST* ADAM
THE FIRST DEATH and THE *LAST* DEATH

Let us consider for a moment the **FIRST MAN (Adam)** and the **LAST ADAM**, that is, the **SECOND MAN (Jesus Christ)**. Paul wrote about them in his letter to the saints in Corinth: “And so it is written, The **first man Adam** was made a living soul; **the last Adam** was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. **The first man** is of the earth, earthy: **the second man** is the Lord from heaven. *1 Corinthians 15:45-47.*

It is no great mystery that He is both the *Second Man*, the *Last Adam*; but few may know that the *Second Death* is a very real part of Him as well. With this in mind we will note that by one act of sin, *ALL LIFE* that was in the *FIRST ADAM*, and all life thereafter died. It is all death of all people of all the world that was cast into that sea of humanity— *THE FIRST DEATH. That death ended life. It was the DEATH of LIFE.* On the reverse side, by the act of righteousness, *ALL DEATH* was and is cast into Christ the **LAST ADAM**, the **SECOND MAN**— *THIS IS THE SECOND DEATH, the DEATH of DEATH.* ALL who died to life in the first Adam shall die to his death in **the Last Adam, who is**—*THE LAKE OF FIRE, THE SECOND DEATH, THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS.* The death of every age of every person shall cease to be. It shall be no more. The all who died in *the man of sin* is the same all who will live in *the man of righteousness*; “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” *1 Corinthians 15:22.* Since we can do simple arithmetic, and understand the principle of balancing weights, and we know that an unequal balance is an abomination to God , it is easily seen that the *ALL* in *the FIRST ADAM* is the *SAME ALL* in *the LAST ADAM*.

Since **the First Death** is dying to God, dying to His righteousness, and dying to His life, **then reversing the process**—dying to Adam, dying to his sin, and dying to his death— **thus the Second Death**. But how is it done? How does one die to Adam? How can a man die to sin? And **what is the process of the death of death?** Death to the old man begins by the birth of the New Man. Sin dies in the fire of His Holy Spirit, wherein every soul shall be baptized. **THE DEATH of DEATH is simply being FILLED UP WITH LIFE**. When the light of life comes in, the darkness of death is swallowed up.

For example, in November of 1949 in Austin, Texas there was a little eight year-old girl, the daughter of Edward and Agnes Mitchell, but her cherished life came to an abrupt end. Every effort failed to save her, and **she lay dead in a cold bed of Austin's Seton Hospital**. While the heart-torn father and doctors were getting the death certificate in order, and her grieving mother sat with her head heavily bowed and buried deep into her hands, and weeping beside the lifeless corpse of the departed child, something profound happened. Upon hearing of the tragedy, our dear friend Charles Roby and his future father-in-law, Brother R.F. Miller, rushed to the hospital. They hurried past the doctors and her father and entered the room of death. Without a word to the mother, Brother Miller went directly to the bedside of the dead little body and lifted the sheet from her covered head and with a single word, he command for her—“**LIVE!**” Life immediately flooded that little shell of clay! She coughed, and **sat up—ALIVE—crying out, "MOTHER! MOTHER!"** At the quickening cough and voice of her daughter, the mother's head shot up from her tear-drenched hands, and she screamed with inexplicable joy. Deep sobs turned to laughter, and instantly she swept her darling baby girl into her arms, filling them with robust life. What a tremendous change!

Charles, a young man of eighteen at the time, said he wasn't expecting this, and the initial shock of seeing someone raised from the dead scared him *spitless (his words)*, but it was for only an impulsive moment. He was then so caught up into the Spirit of praise he felt that he walked out of the hospital at least a foot off the ground,

which lasted for several days. With all the commotion, the hospital staff quickly entered the room that was filled with unbounded joy and excitement, the room which only a few moments earlier had been engulfed and permeated with a foreboding, thick cloud of suffocating presence of death. The nurses and nuns were beside themselves with excitement; while the doctors were visibly disturbed. Not only were they confused and unable to comprehend what had just happened, but they were seemingly resentful that this lowly man of God did something they knew nothing about nor had the power themselves to do. Nevertheless, it caused quite a stir in the whole hospital; and to this day it is a testimony of the *Life and Authority* that is contained in the *Quickening Voice of the Son of God*; and it is still sounding as a trumpet from the heavens of *the victory of life over death*. Charles said, "**What happened that day was like a nuclear explosion which not only consumed and quickened the dead—but the living too!**" That fateful day, **Brother R.F. Miller BECAME THE SECOND DEATH, THE DESTROYER OF THAT LITTLE GIRL'S DEAD WORLD!**

You see, there was only one thing that could have caused her to live. It was **LIFE!** At the command, her living spirit entered back to the place it had once called home. Without her spirit, she would have never breathed another breath, hugged her daddy's neck, or kissed the warm cheeks of her dear mother. In the natural sense that child experienced *the death of death*. The **Second Death (LIFE)** destroyed the **First Death** that wonderful day more than fifty years ago in an obscure hospital room of Austin, Texas. This was but a shadow of the second death, Christ's Holy Spirit of life, *the Lake of Fire* that swallows up and destroys the **first death**—is an example pointing not only to the future quickening of the dead, but **an example for today as well**.

In his cold embrace **the first Adam, the first Death**, consumed and **destroyed the first life**; while it is the fiery embrace with which **the last Adam, the second Death**, consumes and **destroys the first death, all death**. Christ shall burn up hell in the Lake of Fire, and please know that *God is fire, not hell*.

By the inworking of the Lake of Fire, He shall destroy the grave (the unseen realm) and all death therein, and it is in the same Lake that He shall destroy sin—not men, but sin. God does not destroy men in the lake of fire, only sin and death which will leave the universe void of death. Immediately *after the Second Death of the Lake of Fire*, John heard the voice out of heaven expressly declare that *there shall be no more death*. ***Revelation 21:4***. Even so, one traditional view is that God will punish the unsaved sinners with *everlasting death*. This death is described as an eternal separation from God. Such a separation would certainly be classified as a form of death, But we should know that it is not possible for anyone to be separated from God forever. How can you abolish death by bringing men under the bondage of eternal death, from which there is no escape? It cannot be done.

The purpose of Jesus has never been to destroy men or have them separated from Him and His Father forever, not by any means. All that came out of Him will return. *Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1:15)*, and *to make an end of sin (Daniel 9:24)*. **Sin, death, and hell are the things destroyed**. **The root of death, SIN, is destroyed; the abode of the dead, HELL, is destroyed; and with them the fruit of sin, DEATH ITSELF, is destroyed**. And we read in another place, "**...The last enemy that shall be DESTROYED is DEATH.**" ***1 Corinthians 15:26***. Again, **I am become the Second Death, the Destroyer of Worlds!**

It is truly nonsense to preach that ***HELL is PERPETUAL, UNENDING, EVERLASTING DEATH IN THE LAKE OF FIRE***; that there is no escape for all who pass over those foreboding borders. How can anyone maintain the alarming conviction that it is a literal place of no return? This teaching of "*perpetual, unending, everlasting death*" may rank among the most sensational, spine-tingling fantasies of all time; but it has been in Christendom only since the inception of the Roman Catholic Church. It was introduced by this State church in the early fourth century and later endorsed by the Reformationists as a result of tradition. Other contributing factors were the lack of Hebrew and Greek manuscripts and the abundance of ill-translated Bibles. Most other

religions of the world have had their hell, the abode for the evil dead, but it was the Christian churches that have been very influential in popularizing the concept of it "*never ending*."

Nevertheless, we still wonder, how could the plain words of Paul have gone unnoticed for such a long time? "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING? O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY?"** *1 Corinthians 15:54-55*.

Some may contend that he was referring only to the Christians. He, indeed, was writing to Christians in Corinth, and we know that only in Christ is the victory of salvation gained; for Paul went on to say in verse 57: "But thanks be to God, which giveth **US THE VICTORY THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**" In another place it is written, "...Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" *Acts 4:12*. **AMEN!**

Truly, it is only by His matchless name that a man is saved, and only those in Christ Jesus can gain this victory—but there is more. It is not limited to just a few. **THIS VICTORY IS FOR ALL**; where this promising message is clearly trumpeted not only in the various verses we have already covered, it is in many others. We have compiled a list over the past forty years of one hundred and twelve verses that speaks of God's determined will to save all, and in Jesus His will being accomplished.

(Scripture list free upon request or online at:

https://www.godfire.net/Elwin/112_reasons_2Columns.html.)

In the light of plain truth, how can responsible people continue embracing the idea of "*everlasting death*?" What a charade. I believe the *traduced* church has been dancing to a fatal tune. The steps might be fancy, and the rhythm peppy, but nothing comes of all the dust-kicking cloud but a worked-up religious sweat and sore feet. So stop the music, folks! Pack up your kitbag, and send the band home! Vain imaginations are no truer today than they were two and three thousand years ago, but the truth stands undaunted. In Christ's great Church, the plan of salvation through fear has not worked, and there is no place found for such side-stepping maneuvers, intentional or otherwise.

More than a few are reluctant to teach concerning "*The Great White Throne Judgment*" and "*The Lake of Fire*." Some flatly refuse to teach out of the book of Revelation at all. One retired local minister with his doctor's degree in theology told me that the book of Revelation should have never been canonized as a part of the Bible, and said that he did not have time to waste on a man (the apostle John) who had a nightmare, wrote it down, and then had the gall to send it all over the country claiming it was from God. Another said he would never teach from the book of Revelation, because every time a preacher did so, it split the church wide open. And then there are some who do teach from it; but too often their approach of end-time events and judgment come from the traditional darkness of the carnal mind, and this is of no help. It only lends to more confusion and wild imaginations. With such views and lack of understanding, we can see why so little is understood today when it comes to the judgments of God.

Painful as it is, aren't we glad He has, and still is in the process of consuming us by His cleansing, transforming atomic fire of the Last Adam that fuses every fiber of our being together with His? We have learned what a good thing fire is in our own lives, whether it is for light, for warmth, for forming or for purging. What then, causes people to believe the Lake of Fire will not be a glad day for the rest of the world? It is strange how people can see the good of God's fire in their own lives during this age of preparation, but they fail to see it in other's in the ages to come.

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose

shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the **HOLY GHOST, and WITH FIRE.**" *Matthew 3:11*. It is just as accurately translated, "*He shall baptize you with the HOLY SPIRIT, even FIRE,*" indicating the *Holy Spirit* and *Fire* are one and the same thing.

Concerning this, we will borrow a portion from J. Preston Eby's book, *Just What Do You Mean... THE LAKE OF FIRE*. He quotes the scholarly work of Charles Pridgeon on the subject of **brimstone**: "The Lake of Fire and Brimstone signifies a fire burning with brimstone; the 'brimstone' or sulphur defines the character of the fire. The Greek word THEION translated 'brimstone' is exactly the same word, THEION, which means 'divine.' Sulphur was sacred to the deity among the ancient Greeks; and was used to fumigate, to purify, and to cleanse and consecrate to the deity; for this purpose they burned it in their incense. In Homer's Iliad (16:228), one is spoken of as purifying a goblet with fire and brimstone. The verb derived from THEION is THEIOO, which means to hallow, to make divine, or to dedicate to a god (See *Liddell and Scott Greek-English Lexicon, 1897 Edition*). To any Greek, or any trained in the Greek language, a 'lake of fire and brimstone' would mean a 'lake of divine purification.' The idea of judgment need not be excluded. Divine purification and divine consecration are the plain meaning in ancient Greek. In the ordinary explanation, this fundamental meaning to the world is entirely left out, and nothing but eternal torment is associated with it."

Now to note that John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize, not with water that cleans only on the surface, but with *the Holy Spirit of Godfire* that cleans clear through. Jesus Himself said that everyone would be salted with fire (*Mark 9:49*), and in the book of Revelation we see the remainder of humanity, everyone except the overcomers, being cast into *the Lake of Godfire*.

Those who have the mark of the beast, that is, everyone who does not have the mark of the Father in their foreheads, will find themselves in this Holy Lake of Godfire. They shall be tormented in the presence of **God, who is fire**, they shall be tormented in the presence of **the Lamb, who is fire**, they shall be tormented in the presence of **the holy messengers and ministers of God, who are fire**, and they shall be tormented in the presence of **the word of God, which is fire**. Simply put, **the Lake of Fire is made of GOD!**

A lake by definition is a body of water. The lake of burning brimstone is a body of divine Godfire that is made up of many members. He makes His angels spirits and His ministers flames of fire (*Psalms 104:4*). The Body of Christ is a many-membered body consisting of those who have been baptized into that Body (not water but His Body). The spirit of each member is a candle of the Lord (*Proverbs 20:27*), and **when they all burn with the flaming brightness of God's Spirit**, you have **GODFIRE**, and when they cover the earth as the waters cover the seas, you have **THE LAKE OF BRIMSTONE, THE LAKE OF GODFIRE—THE SECOND DEATH, THE DESTROYER OF WORLDS!**

It matters not if it was yesterday, today, tomorrow, or in the ages to come, Jesus will baptize every soul with the Spirit of His Holy Fire. Every soul shall be thoroughly salted with fire. He will purge the floor of His earth, the earth that "...is the Lord's, the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein!" *Psalms 24:1*. Oh, children of this age, what a baptism, what a purging! And in the end, each and everyone will joyfully say: "I needed that."

Fire was given to us in the natural so we can comprehend what God is, as well as His ministers, and also to know what His word is. It is the same with practically everything, before we can understand anything about God we must first grasp it in the natural. When we have learned about sowing wheat, we begin to understand the death of Jesus; when the reaping of the firstfruits of barley is no longer a mystery, it finally dawns more clearly on us what the resurrection is about; and once we have loved and lived in the wonderful thing called marriage, we can know more about our union with Christ. That which is natural is first, as Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans, and then that which is spiritual and so it is with fire. Like all symbols, it is a useful tool

and very necessary for teaching, for getting a message across; but after the reality arrives of what the symbol points to, the symbol is put aside. Once the fire of Christ came, and that age ended (at the siege of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.) the fire in the temple ceased to burn, as did the flames in the Valley of Hinnom. Those natural flames that were very useful for a time, died, to never be kindled again; for the fire of the Holy Spirit of God came, fulfilling the shadowy symbol in shining reality.

This, dear saints of God, we can count on the fire of God breaking and changing us now or later. It will bring each of us to the cross. Like the natural, spiritual fire is painfully hot, and it will work a change, and the change will be unto righteousness. It may take long ages of God's fiery judgment to work on some; but it will work and then come to an end. The great fire of God will only last until it has melted all arrogance into humility, and all that is of self has died in the bloody sweat and all-conquering cross of Jesus Christ. Never believe the fire will not bring every soul to the cross, nor think it will last forever. Once the fire is kindled, the passion of His love will never be quenched until its redeeming power finishes what it is sent to do. And for sure, once the unquenchable fire has consumed every thing flammable, and has worked its marvelous work, beauty shall rise from the ashes, and life shall bloom from the earthen tomb of death. They all shall hear the voice of the Son of God and live!

It cannot be said too often, the **HOLY SPIRIT of God** is the **HOLY FIRE of God**; and whatsoever the **HOLY FIRE OF GOD** touches, it either burns it up or refines it. His fire either destroys or changes, usually both, by destroying sin and changing the sinner. Whenever the **Spirit is activated, fire proceeds from the throne!** A sermon ministered in the Spirit is a **WORD OF FIRE**. A song that is sung in the Spirit is a **SONG THAT IS ABLAZE WITH FIRE**. An act of love (not carnal) is a **PASSION OF FIRE**. His ministers are **FIREBRANDS IN THE EARTH**. There can be nothing said, sung, or done in the Spirit that does not change or destroy something inwardly or outwardly; for the **SPIRIT IS FIRE**, and everything fire touches is effected one way or the other. It consumes the wood, hay, and stubble while refining the precious silver and gold of the Lord.

THE LAKE OF FIRE, or let us say "**THE LAKE OF GOD**," is ablaze with **HOLY FIRE**. It burns fervently with the Word, it rises in anthem's celestial flames as **THE SONG OF THE LORD**, and in swells of glory the fire roars, wave after wave of His fiery Word, while His ministers of surmounting flames move across the land by the guiding breath of God's heated Spirit of determined passion. How can we malign or caricature such a blazing glory? How can we demean such wonders of the Lord? And how can we undermine His ability to save to the uttermost? How can we mock such holy wonders of His doing? Hopefully, all who read these pages will never do so again.

LIFE FROM THE FLAMES OF JUDGMENT

The doctrine of *everlasting, never-ending, judgment of hellfire upon the sinners* of the world is atrocious; but another extreme view needs to be addressed, which is the idea of "*no judgment*," or at least very little. This view has God being so *loving* that there will be no negative cost to pay for the deeds done in the flesh or for the unbridled lusts and rebellion harbored in the soul. This easy going God supposedly exonerated all men and their sins at the cross of Jesus, and the only thing lacking is for them to realize it. There are, of course, many things that would do us good if we could and would realize it; but some things are ignorantly taken with more liberty than what is good for them. It is like a person realizes that Jesus not only turned water into wine, but he drank it from time to time; therefore, they booze it up and spend most of their time drinking to drunkenness whereby their communion with Him is severed.

Such liberalism, with some, assumes that this all-loving presence will melt the hardest of hearts and still the souls of hatred toward humanity, and when it is truly by His Spirit, yes, but often it appears to be the human

spirit masquerading as Him. Some feel there will be no pain or suffering once the grave has claimed their bodies, just an understanding God who will magically change the carnal souls of everyone, including unrepentant insurrectionists and those who willfully sin after having known the truth.

The record leaves no doubt that the wood, hay, and stubble of the natural man, along with the tares of the world, shall be subjected to *the judgment fires of God*, whether in this present age or those of the future. In a couple of places Jesus said that some would even be subjected to "**hell fire**," that is, "**the fire of Gehenna**." This strongly suggests that the judgment is less than pleasant. God, from whom good parents come, uses whatever is necessary to correct rebellion in His Kingdom, first in love with the spirit of gentleness; and if need be, with the flames of **hellfire**, but it is still in the spirit of love. Every stronghold of the First Adam must come to nothing in order for the greater Kingdom of the Last Adam to flourish. When it is finished, it will be as Isaiah declared: "He will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over **all people**, and the veil that is spread over **all nations**. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord will wipe away tears from **all faces**. For when Thy judgments are in the earth, **the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.**" *Isaiah 25:7-8, 26:9*.

Never believe for a moment that people will not have to answer for what they sow in the flesh: "For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain **fearful looking for judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries**. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith He was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know Him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto Me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge His people. **It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**" *Hebrews 10:26-31*.

These verses by no means say God will blindly sweep a man's willful, deliberate, contemptible, presumptuous sins under the carpet and never deal with him about them; but neither do the verses say the man will never be delivered. They do say, however, that the **JUDGMENT OF FIRE will devour them**—not the man, but **his adversaries—HIS SINS—HIS DEATH!**

God never intended for us to play skip the rope of life and not be responsible for our actions. Jesus said in a couple of places, "Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing." *Matthew 5:26*. The writer of Hebrews reminded us of an age-old principle, "For whom the Lord loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives." "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." *Hebrews 12:6, 11*. And we cannot forget the words of David: "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes. **It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.**" *Psalms 119:67-68, 71*.

Neither man's traditions nor the span of ages will change the principles of God, and they always work. It matters not if the principles have to do with one man or the entire world, whether they were applied in the days of David, in this present dispensation, or the one to come—the **FIERY JUDGMENTS OF GOD PURGE AND CHANGE, bringing INDIVIDUALS AND NATIONS TO RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

It is recorded in *Nahum 1:5*, "The mountains quake at Him, and hills melt, and **the earth is burned at his presence, yea the world, and ALL that dwell therein.**" Do we suppose God just got tired of dealing with His rebellious creation, and at this point decided there was no use working with them any longer, and He will burn up the whole lump? Not at all. He is severe, but severely remedial: "Therefore wait ye upon Me, saith the

LORD, until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for **all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of My jealousy (but not literal nor forever). For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the LORD, to serve Him with one consent.**" *Zephaniah 3:8-9.*

Take note of God's fiery judgment upon Israel, and know that the Lake of Fire will be no less to those cast therein, but also notice **the benefit of that fire**: "When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof **by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.** And the Lord will create upon every dwelling place of mount Zion, and upon her assemblies, a cloud and smoke by day, and the shining of a flaming fire by night: for upon all the glory shall be a defense. And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain" *Isaiah 4:4-6.*

Paul was no stranger to hardships, and when it came to others his hand was not shortened that he would not turn them over to severe judgment for a time, but know also that it was for their good: "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. And ye are puffed up (*saying, 'I would never do that.'*), and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. I have judged concerning him that hath so done this deed, to deliver such an one unto Satan **for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved** in the day of the Lord Jesus" *1 Corinthians 5:5.* And "Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom **I Have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme**" *1 Timothy 1:20.* Wouldn't you prefer to have the adversary sent against you than to continue in fornication or blaspheming God? You see, it is a good thing to be *judged and corrected unto life.* If need be, it is good to find our place in the Lake of Fire. Moreover, this principle of love and judgment has been applied to nations, especially this one.

The fact is, extreme cases necessitate extreme measures, and it is always for ultimate good when it is by the hand of God . He is never slack in His love. No one escapes the salting of fire, especially those who bring Christ to an open shame by sinning willfully or the ones who revolt against His authority. In such cases, *there is no more a renewing of them by repentance, but renewing by burning along with the briars and thorns (Hebrews 6:4-8).*

What a glorious day it is to be privileged to hear the song of Moses and understand what he was saying: "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, **for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea.**" *Exodus 15:1.* Praise God! **HORSE and RIDER (SIN and DEATH) IS THROWN INTO THE SEA, A FIERY SEA—THE LAKE OF FIRE! TWO OF THE GREATEST ENEMIES KNOWN TO MAN ARE TRIUMPHED OVER—FOREVERMORE!**

Therefore, **GOD** coming forth as a consuming fire, His commanding **WORD** resounding as fire, His **MINISTERS** being manifested as flaming drops of fire have to do with **SPIRITUAL FIRE**, and when they **ALL** come together as one form **THE LAKE OF FIRE.**

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