

THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

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FIRST THREE DAYS

THE CONSUMING FIRE

1st MAY, 2026

Text: Hebrews 12:29 "For our God is a consuming fire".

This theme explores the terrifying nature of God's holiness and reframes it as the ultimate expression of his consuming, purifying love.

Let us look at the Core Themes:

1. Love is Inexorable.

Romans 8:38-39

[38]For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, [39]nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

This says that God's love is not passive or sentimental; because God loves us perfectly, He cannot tolerate anything in us that is not beautiful and whole. Everything contrary to God's nature must be destroyed and consumed, as it is the only way to save His children.

2. The Purpose of the Fire

Malachi 3:2-3

[2]"But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. [3]He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the Lord An offering in righteousness.

This distinguishes between what is burned up and what is refined:

The Consumed: Evil, selfishness, and whatever keeps us separated from God will be consumed.

The Refined: This talk about the true human soul, which is purified and not destroyed.

3. Fire as Love, Not Vengeance.

This states that God's fire will burn away our sins, either through the willing surrender of our hearts or, if we cling to our sins, through a painful and purging process.

When the Bible describes God as a "consuming fire," it is generally emphasizing His holiness, purity, and passion to burn away sin—not a desire for vindictive punishment.

That means God fire will go on burning within us until we submit to being made perfectly clean, ultimately rendering the fire a source of joy rather than torture.