

Eternal Fire: What Is It?

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Eternal Fire

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Have you ever wondered how a God of love could burn His children in tormenting flames? Are you afraid of burning for all eternity in the consuming fires (or perhaps just as long as one deserves before God kills)? Have ideas like this interfered with your relationship with God? Would you love your spouse more if you believed they would murder you if you disobeyed them?

How do we understand God's love and eternal fire?

The sinners in Zion are terrified; trembling grips the godless: "Who of us can dwell with the consuming fire? Who of us can dwell with everlasting burning?" Isaiah 33:14

Do texts like this frighten you? Then please read the very next verse, you might be surprised who the Bible teaches lives for all eternity in the fire:

He who walks righteously and speaks what is right, who rejects gain from extortion and keeps his hand from accepting bribes, who stops his ears against plots of murder and shuts his eyes against contemplating evil—verse 15.

Wait a minute – what is going on here? The Bible is saying the righteous, not the wicked, are the ones who live in the consuming fire! How can this be? Aren't the wicked supposed to burn in the fire?

Let's examine the rest of God's Word and see what the Bible says – God speaks to Moses at the bush – and what did the bush do?

Burned – but did it get consumed? Stephen in Acts 7:30-36 confirms this same account. Exodus 3:2-4.

God came to Mt Sinai and His presence was described as a "consuming fire" did the elements melt like a nuclear explosion? Exodus 24:17 2 Chronicles 5:14 & 7:1-3 informs us that when

Solomon's Temple was dedicated the Priests couldn't enter because the brightness of God's fiery glory was too great – but did the Temple burn down? So was it heat that was keeping the priests out? Ezekiel 28:14 and 16 tells us that Lucifer, before his fall, used to walk among the "fiery stones" of God's presence.

Was this fire destructive?

At the Mount of Transfiguration, Jesus, in His human body that was still subject to death for it died on the Cross shortly thereafter, is bathed in fire. His face shown like the sun and His clothes were bright white, but did His clothes burn off or did He receive 3rd degree burns? Matthew 17:2 Deuteronomy 4:24 and Hebrews 12:29 States, "our God is a consuming fire." Revelation 22:5 tells us that in the new earth there will be no need for the sun and moon to light the earth for God's presence will be its light!

What is the lie that Satan has foisted upon us? What is the distortion that all too many of us have bought into?

The place you don't want to go, the place you don't want to be is the place of eternal burnings and consuming fire and that place is God's very presence!

The righteous will be transformed by this life giving glory – as Moses was after 40 days with God. Moses came down off the mountain and his face was radiating this fiery glory (Ex 34:29-35). But did Moses have 3rd degree burns? No, the fire was not harmful – but what about the children of Israel, when they saw Moses what did they do?

They begged him to put a veil over his face because this light caused them anguish and suffering. But what kind of suffering?

Suffering of mind, why? Their consciences were guilty, because they didn't value God's methods and principles, because they preferred lies and