SERMON: **God's Love** and **Eternal Fire**
Righteousness By Faith

Central Valley Deaf Ministries - Fresno Central SDA Church

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The Mystery

PART I


If God Is Love,
Why Is He Called a
Consuming Fire?


If God Is Love,
Why Is He Called a
Consuming Fire?

Hebrews 12:29 *NKJV*

For our God is a consuming fire.



Deuteronomy 4:24 *NKJV*

For the Lord your God is
a consuming fire, a jealous God.



Why God Is
A Jealous God



His "jealousy" is a
righteous protection
of His relationship with
His people,
meaning He demands
undivided devotion.

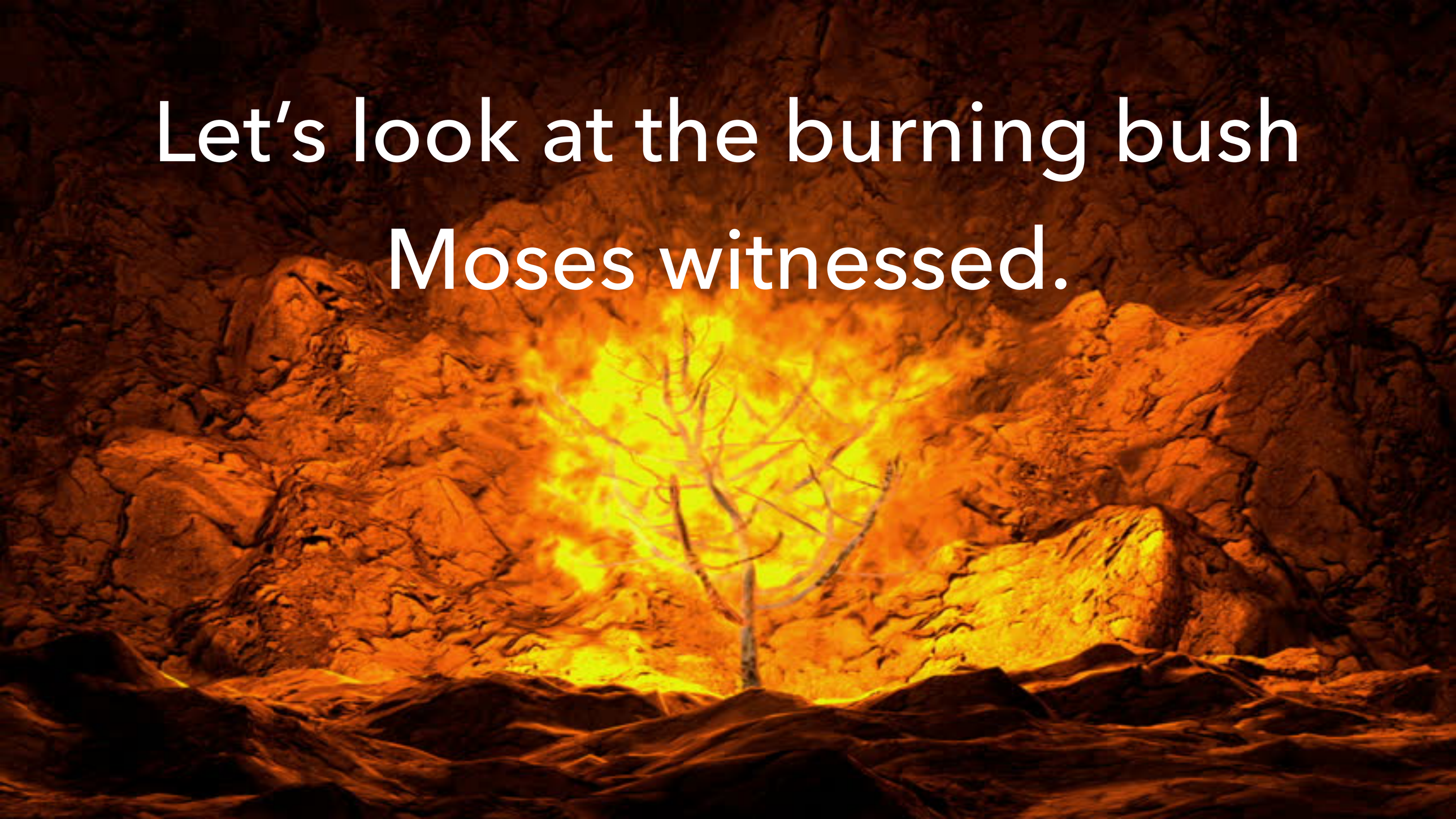


The phrase "consuming fire"
is a biblical metaphor
used in both the Old and New Testaments
to describe God's absolute holiness,
intense justice, and unstoppable power.



God's Presence and Glory

PART II


Let’s look at the burning bush
Moses witnessed.

Exodus 3:2 *NKJV*

And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.




God's Presence
At Mount Sinai

Exodus 19:18 *NKJV*

Now Mount Sinai *was* completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.



Exodus 34:35 *NKJV*

And whenever the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone, then Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with Him.



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.

Biblical support: Exodus 34:29-35




Solomon's Temple
Dedication

2 Chronicles 7:1, 2 *NKJV*

When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. 2 And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.

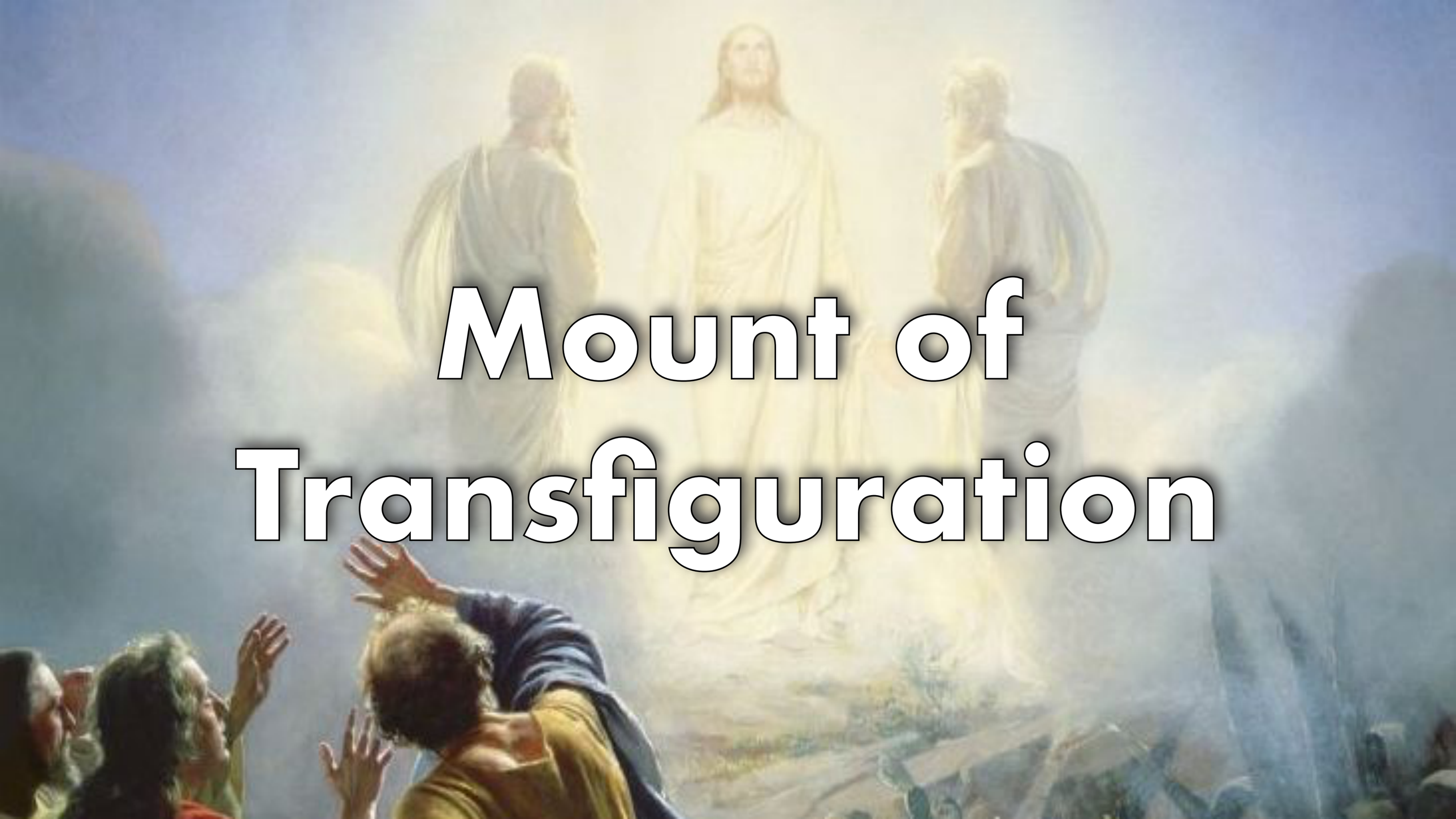



Daniel's Friends In
The Furnace

Daniel 3:25 *NKJV*

“Look!” he *[King Nebuchadnezzar]* answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”




Mount of
Transfiguration

Matthew 17:2 *NKJV*

And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.



God's glorious presence is powerful and holy. Yet the Bible gives examples in which people or things encounter fire without being destroyed. What can these examples teach us?



Who Can Dwell in the Fire?

PART III



Isaiah 33:14 *NIRV*

The sinners in Zion are terrified. They tremble with fear. They say, ‘Who of us can live through the Lord’s destroying fire? Who of us can live through the fire that burns forever?’



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:



Isaiah 33:15 *NCV*

A person who does what is right and speaks what is right, who refuses to take money unfairly, who refuses to take money to hurt others, who does not listen to plans of murder, who refuses to think about evil—



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?



Consuming Fire

- Purification
- Righteous Judgment
  - God’s Wrath
  - Lake of Fire



Purifying Fire

PART IV

Daniel 12:10 *NKJV*

Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.



Purification –

Like metal being refined in a furnace, this fire burns away impurities, pride, and temporary things so that only what is eternal and true remains.

Biblical support: Isaiah 6:6,7; Revelation 3:18



Isaiah 6:6, 7 *NKJV*

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.”



Revelation 3:18 *NKJV*

I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed.



Righteous Judgment

PART V

Righteous Judgment –

It signifies God's wrath and justice against deliberate rebellion, idolatry, and unrepentant sin.



Revelation 12:12 *NKJV*

Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.



Romans 1:18, 19 *NIV*

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.



Satan's Wrath –

Satan's wrath is the use of power to cause harm! Chaos, disasters, lies, rebellions, wars, oppressions, etc.



God's Wrath –

God's wrath is the opposite–it is when He stops using power to protect us.

In other word, God let go of rebellious people without His protection. The good example is Babylonian captivity.



Matthew 25:41 *NKJV*

Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.





Lake of Fire – Final Judgment

Jesus describes the final judgment, noting that the eternal fire was originally designated for Satan and his fallen angels.



The Good News

PART VI

The Good News –

The righteous will dwell in God's consuming fire–not to be destroyed, but to live forever in the fullness of His glorious presence!

Biblical support: Isaiah 33:14–16; Hebrews 12:29; Revelation 22:3–5



God is a consuming fire, but that through Jesus Christ, God's redeemed people will live forever in the fullness of His glorious presence.

Coming ahead in next Sermon …

Human Justice vs **God's Justice**

Righteousness By Faith