

Hello! This is Dorothy -

It was many years ago that we were honored to have a visit from a Nigerian pastor in our English home. In our hearth, we had an electric fire. This fire had a plastic covering that made it look just like coal. One day for some reason, we put our hand right on the plastic. This Nigerian pastor jumped back in sheer fear! He said, "You are touching fire and you are not burned!" I said, "You could do it if you like. It will not burn you. There is no heat coming through this; it is all artificial." However, he wouldn't follow suit; he wouldn't touch it, but he was amazed. How you could touch fire and not be burned?

This is an interesting question in the Old Testament. What type of fire do we read of that does not burn? Have you ever thought about that? We read that the fire of God rested upon the tabernacle, but we know that the tabernacle did not catch fire. We know that God came in a whirlwind with a chariot with the horses of fire and picked up Elijah and whipped him up to Heaven, but he was not burned alive. It is interesting, too, that the same sign of the Son of Man is the star of Bethlehem. This actually, we read, rested on the house where Jesus was a little fellow being looked after by Mary and Joseph. This was what brought the wise men who came, having studied Scriptures and

understood that there was something unusual happening with the Messiah coming. Their very gifts that they brought were all part of the explanation of what they believed God was doing. Yet, when they went, they did not find the house on fire. The Lord did not burn what He touched. This is very, very interesting. We long for fire in our lives, we say, but if we did have real fire in our lives, we would be burned out. God speaks about fire among His people; being in the midst of His people, in the holy place of the tabernacle. Upon the top of Mount Sinai, where He came in His chariot, there was the burning where His presence was known. Yet, everything remained. Moses was confident, in everything he did, of this divine presence being in the midst of this pillar of fire. He did not just think it was just some weird and wonderful thing that was guiding them. He knew there was a divine presence there.

In **Numbers chapter 10** we read -

35 **And it came to pass, when the ark. . . - that is the ark of the covenant - . . . set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, Lord, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee.**

36 **And when it rested, he said, Return, O Lord, unto the many thousands of Israel.** He knew of the presence of the living God. God Almighty, Yahweh, is in separately linked with the movement of the flaming cloud, which is the Shekinah glory which rested upon the

mercy seat which formed the lid of the ark of the covenant. Every time that was moved, the presence of God was also moving. So we read of the ark and the cloud and His presence all moving together.

There is a very interesting verse, which I would like you to think about. **Psalm 68:17 - The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels . . . - and listen to this - . . . the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.** The Lord is in the midst. *The Angel of the Lord* is a title actually for the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. It is actually God in an act of Self-disclosure. God is speaking to you today; God's presence amongst His people is in a visible way. When He speaks of being *the Way*, the radiant cloud to His chosen people is the way for us. Therefore, I want you to start opening the Word of God and seeing that it is all related; it is all about the revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ. See in the pages of the Old Testament the Lord Jesus. See how God is communicating with man and He does that through the Second Person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus. Yes, **the Word was made flesh and dwelt. . . - literally pitched His tabernacle - . . . amongst us, and we beheld His glory.** Have you beheld the glory of the Lord Jesus? The cloud revealed that the God of Israel was in their midst, enabling them to walk in the light as He is in the light.

John 17 speaks much of this glory, the glorification shared with our

Lord Jesus with the Father in ages past. The glory has a direct relationship to the self disclosure of the eternal God. As a believer in Jesus Christ, we should know the fire of His presence. We should know this glory. We should understand what it is to come before Him and recognize that Jesus is the self-disclosed One who has come in flesh and has made it possible for us to come into the holy presence of God because of His precious Blood and not be consumed.

Oh, one day soon, He is going to come! He will come in a glory cloud, which will be recognized by those people who look for Him. In the meantime, know Him today as Jesus, Lord and Saviour.

Amen.