

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

The first time that “*coals of fire*” are mentioned in the scriptures is found in the instruction of the LORD to Aaron in making a sin offering for the people. “*And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, -- And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD.*” It is this “*sweet savor*” of this OFFERING which comes up unto the LORD in the behalf of HIS people, our GREAT HIGH PRIEST did make that OFFERING of a sweet smell unto the LORD in our behalf. The intense heat of these “*coals of fire*”, pictures the sufferings of our SAVIOR who endured the cross for the joy that was set before HIM.

We see that these “*coals of fire*”, which denote the sufferings of CHRIST, were kindled by HIM who will judge sin most harshly, neither clearing the guilty nor acquitting the wicked. The same ONE who wrote the Law is HE who determined to send HIS only begotten SON into the world as a SIN BEARER, condemned by that same Law. “*To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*” Let no man think that he shall escape condemnation for his sin, since GOD spared not HIS own SON but made HIM who knew no sin to be sin for us. When Isaiah was given his vision of the LORD, he was struck down in repentance before that SIGHT whose glory overwhelmed him, so much that he cried out, “*Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*” The LORD would not leave him in such a state, thus HE sent a SERAPHIM with a live coal from the altar and laid it upon his lips. John the Baptist testified to his disciples of the REDEEMER, saying; “*he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.*”

This same “*FIRE*” is also that which shall destroy the wicked even as John went on to testify, “*he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.*” The LORD HIMSELF, declared the same, “*If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*” Peter warmed himself there in the courtyard of the Judgement Hall. “*And the servants and officers stood there, who had made a fire of coals; for it was cold: and they warmed themselves: and Peter stood with them, and warmed himself.*” Satan had desired to sift Peter as wheat. Yet the LORD prayed for him that his FAITH would not fail. The LORD set this stage to teach Peter that he could not stand in his own power, in spite of his boastings that he would even face death for the LORD. So, we see him warming himself by the same “*fire of coals*”, as those unbelievers. Yet the LORD meant this trial of Peter for a completely different purpose as Peter’s “*warmth*” was soon turned to tears of sorrow and ultimately repentance as he denied knowing the LORD, three times, the last with an oath. How foolish are men when they trust in their own power. Yet the LORD made provision for Peter, and “*purged*” him, consuming his self-reliance in bitter tears which flowed from Peter’s eyes.

Then we are brought to observe a most comforting sight in John’s gospel, as we behold the risen CHRIST on the seashore, having prepared a meal for HIS weary friends. They had toiled all night and had caught no fish by their own endeavors. Yet when the LORD instructed them where to cast the net they brought in a multitude of fish. Those fish in that net were appointed by HIM to be caught and not one of them got away. In all of this we see the LORD’s provision for HIS disciples, for not only did HE teach them where to cast their net, but HE prepared a meal of fish and bread for them on “*a fire of coals*”. No doubt this was a welcome sight to them. For here they were able to fellowship with the LORD, to be fed by a meal which they did not prepare, and to warm themselves by a “*fire of coals*” which they had not kindled. What do we have that HE has not provided for us?

Perhaps the LORD kindled this “*fire of coals*” specifically for Peter to remind him of that other “*fire of coals*” which he had recently warmed himself by. Yet this was not unto Peter’s condemnation but rather to demonstrate the mercy and kindness of the LORD as HE “*is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” For it was here by this “*fire of coals*”, that the LORD restored Peter as HE told him to “*feed my sheep*”. We see that brought to fruition not many days hence on the Day of Pentecost. Have you seen this “*fire of coals*” which is kindled by the LORD? Have you eaten of that meal which HE has prepared?

“*Thy free grace alone,*”#11 ***If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net***