

Pastor Ron Case
7/8/12

“Enduring the Crucible” (2)

“for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:29)

“For everyone will be salted with fire.” (Mark 9:49)

Forecast for Mankind: Breakdown & Meltdown

Isaiah 24:19-22 – (19) “The earth is utterly broken, the earth is split apart, the earth is violently shaken. (20) The earth staggers like a drunken man; it sways like a hut; its transgression lies heavy upon it, and it falls, and will not rise again. (21) On that day the LORD will punish the host of heaven, in heaven, and the kings of the earth, on the earth. (22) They will be gathered together as prisoners in a pit; they will be shut up in a prison, and after many days they will be punished.”

2 Peter 3:7 – “...the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.”

Response of the Wicked

Revelation 16:8-9 – (8) “The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. (9) They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.”

Forecast for God’s People: Alignment & Refinement

Isaiah 48:10-11 – (10) “Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. (11) For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.”

1 Peter 1:6-7 – (6) “In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, (7) so that the tested genuineness (trustworthiness) of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

Response of the Righteous

Isaiah 6:5-7 – (5) “And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!’ (6) Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having

in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. (7) And he touched my mouth and said: ‘Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.’”

Key Point: Everyone has an Appointment with God’s Fire

Considerations:

If You are not right with God:

“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:15)

For the Christian:

Consider it a Blessing to be Prepped before Disaster

“Blessed is the man whom you discipline, O LORD, and whom you teach out of your law, to give him rest from days of trouble, until a pit is dug for the wicked.” (Psalm 94:12-13)

Patiently Endure the Pre-Trial

“Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.” (Revelation 3:10)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Have I been experiencing some fiery trials lately?

When the Lord refines, what is he testing/transforming? (Prov. 17:3)

Is this fiery, transforming work for my benefit only?

(Col. 1:24; Psalm 105:16-19)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)