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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Study: Eschatology

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BAPTISM OF FIRE

Request: "Could you explain (Matt.3:11-12) and the Baptism of Fire? I am confused on exactly what it is?"

There is confusion on the Baptism of Fire because it was used **symbolically** and not literally with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost:

(Acts 2:3) "And there appeared to them **tongues** (glossa/ nplm) [languages] **as** (hosei/ compound of hos and 1cc/ used as particle in comparative clause) **fire** (pur/ abl.sn) distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them." (Matt.3:16) As (**hosei**) a dove

This lesson will study five aspects of the Baptism of Fire in eschatology (second coming of Jesus Christ).

1. John listed three literal and different baptisms in Matt.3:11-12.

- John the Baptist's Baptism
 - Baptism with water
 - **Christ is coming** (John 1:26-34) First Advent
- Jesus Christ
 - Baptism with The Holy Spirit
 - **Christ has come and gone** (Acts 1:4-5; 2:3; 2:33) Church Age
- Jesus Christ
 - Baptism with fire
 - **Christ is coming again** (2 Thess.1:5-10) Second advent

(Matt.3:11b) "**He** (**autos**/ nsm) will baptize (baptize/ f.a.ind.3ps) you (humas/ aplm) with (en+inst.s.n) [mode or means] the Holy Spirit (hagios pneuma/ inst.sn) (no article) [emphasis is on **HE/Christ**]."

2. (Matt.3:11-12) explains four things associated with the Baptism of Fire.

- **Winnowing fork** Separating wheat from chaff / believers from unbelievers.
- **Cleansing of threshing floor** Judgment associated with second coming of Christ.
- **Wheat into barn** Security of believers
- **Burnt chaff with unquenchable fire** Divine judgment of unbelievers

3. It is important to keep the subject in context of the passage and Book of Matthew.

For example, Matthew recorded seven parables on this subject.

- (Matt.13:24-30, 37-43) Wheat from Tares
- (Matt.13: 47-50) Good from Bad Fish
- (Matt.22:1-14) Clothed from Unclothed Wedding Guests
- (Matt.24:42-51) Sensible from Evil Servants
- (Matt. 25:1-13) Wise from Foolish Bridesmaids
- (Matt.25:14-30) Faithful from Evil Employees
- (Matt.25:31-33, 41- 46) Sheep from Goats

4. When studying the Book of Matthew, many forget that Old Covenant believers were not aware of a difference between the first and second coming of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament spoke only of the Coming of Christ.

This separation in biblical history came as a **MYSTERY** along with the Church Age (Rom.16:25-27; 1 Cor.15:51; Col.1:24-27).

(Col.1:26) "That is, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints."

(Eph.5:32) "**This mystery is great**; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church."

5. There are two eschatological World Wars in the future associated with the Baptism of Fire.

(Matt.24:6-8) Dress rehearsal. Both World Wars are also associated with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

- First eschatology World War is Armageddon at the end of the Tribulation period (Rev.16-19).
- The Last eschatology World War is Gog and Magog at the end of the Millennium period (Rev.20).

Armageddon:

This baptism of fire will remove all living **Tribulation** unbelievers from earth. These unbelievers will be sent to Torment of Sheol **until the Great White Throne Judgement (GWTJ)** (Matt.24:29-31; Rev.20:11-15; 2 Thess.1:8-10). This will allow only living believers to enter the Millennial period of biblical history.

Gog and Magog:

This baptism of fire will remove all **Millennium** unbelievers from the earth. These unbelievers will also be sent to Torment of Sheol **until the Great White Throne Judgement (GWTJ)**. This will allow only believers from all civilizations to enter into the New Heaven and Earth (Rev.20-22; Matt.25:41).

(Rev.20:9b) "...and fire came down from heaven and devoured them."

The Scriptural analogy of Noah's flood was given to help us understand the final judgment of Baptism of Fire (Matt.24:36-42; 1 Pet.3:19-22; 2 Pet.2:4-9; 3:3-13).

(2Pet.3:5-7) "For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the Day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men."