

Fifteen Ways God Presents Himself as Fire in the Bible

Holy Spirit, we ask you to open our spiritual eyes to see the glory of our Heavenly Father as revealed in his Word. Empower us with courage to draw near to the cleansing fire of the love of Jesus. Amen.

1. **The Fire of Calling:** When God called Moses to deliver his people out of Egypt, he appeared to Moses as a flame of fire in a burning bush (Exodus 3:1-6).
2. **The Covenant Fire:** When God sealed his covenant with Abram, he appeared as a smoking firepot and flaming torch (Genesis 15:17).
3. **The Cleansing Fire:** Fire is presented as a cleansing agent throughout the Old Testament law. Fire is used to burn sacrifices on the altar, the remains of some sin offerings outside the camp, and clothing exposed to disease (Leviticus 1:3-9, 4:11-12, 6:12-13, 13:47-52). Fire is used to purify plunder from war that was tainted by touching the dead. (Numbers 31:19-23). The fire of God is depicted as a cleansing agent for corrosion on copper representing sin in the city of Jerusalem (Ezekial 24:6-13). Fire is a cleansing agent to remove sin from our lives and judge our worthless actions (1 Corinthians 3:15).
4. **The Consuming Fire:** When the people of Israel complained in the wilderness, God appeared as a fire and consumed part of the camp (Numbers 11:1-2). He warns against idolatry, because “the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God” (Deuteronomy 4:23-24 ESV). As Israel got ready to cross the Jordan river and face enemies in the Promised Land, Moses reminded the people that God went before them as a consuming fire to destroy, subdue, and drive out the inhabitants. He would do this because of the wicked practices of the people who lived there (Deuteronomy 9:3-5). God is described as a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28-29).
5. **The Glory:** When Moses led the Hebrew people to the foot of Mount Sinai to meet with God, he descended upon the mountain in fire and smoke (Exodus 19:17-18). When God called Moses up to Mount Sinai to deliver the law to him, the glory of the Lord appeared on the top of the mountain as a devouring fire (Exodus 24:15-17). When Moses erected the tabernacle in the wilderness at God’s command, the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle as a fire by night, and a cloud that settled on the tabernacle by day (Exodus 40:34-38). The glory of the Lord is described as being like fire (Ezekial 1:26-28).
6. **The God of Fire:** God is portrayed as a being with devouring fire in his mouth and smoke in his nostrils (Psalm 18:8). The voice of God is described as flames of fire (Psalm 29:7). The Holy One of Israel is described as a flame of fire (Isaiah 10:17). God is described as a consuming fire or everlasting burning. Only the righteous who speak uprightly can dwell in his presence (Isaiah 33:14-16). The eyes of Jesus in his resurrected heavenly glory are described as a flame of fire (Revelation 1:14, 2:18).

7. The Guide: When God led his people out of Egypt into the wilderness, he went before them as a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to give them light so they could travel day and night (Exodus 13:21-22).
8. The Fire of Holy Spirit: Fire represents the Holy Spirit who fills us with passion and power (Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16, Acts 2:3).
9. The Fire of Judgment: Fire describes the judgment of God (Isaiah 66:15-16, 2 Peter 3:7). Unquenchable fire represents the judgment of God on sin (Matthew 3:12; Luke 3:17). Fire depicts the judgement of God in an eternal hell (Matthew 5:22, 18:8, 25:41; Mark 9:43-48, Jude 1:7, Revelation 19:20, 20:10-15, 21:8). The judgment of God is described as a fury of fire (Hebrews 10:27). Fire exposes sin on earth for judgment (Luke 12:49, 1 Corinthians 3:13).
10. The Prophetic Fire: The prophetic word of God is described as a burning fire shut up in the prophet's bones (Jeremiah 20:9, 23:29).
11. The Protecting Fire: The protection of God around the city of Jerusalem is described as a wall of fire (Zechariah 2:5).
12. The Refiners Fire: The Lord is described as a refiner's fire that purifies the Levitical priesthood ministering in the temple in Jerusalem (Malachi 3:2).
13. The Sacrificial Fire: When God called Gideon to deliver Israel from the Midianites, he appeared as fire that consumed Gideon's offering (Judges 6:19-23). When Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal, God proved himself to be the one true God by sending fire to burn up Elijah's sacrifice to him (1 Kings 18:23-25). When Solomon prayed to dedicate the temple in Jerusalem, fire came from heaven to consume the burnt offering and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. Fire represents the glory of God (2 Chronicles 7:1-3).
14. The Fire of Tribulation: God refines the remnant of Israel in the end time with the fire of trials and tribulation so they are purified and will call on his name (Zechariah 13:9). The trials of life that refine and test Christians are described as fire (1 Peter 1:6-7).
15. The Fire of Wrath: The wrath of God against sin is described as fire (Jeremiah 4:4, 12:12; Ezekiel 21:31, 22:21; Nahum 1:6). The wrath of God against the sin of Israel is described as a flaming fire (Lamentations 2:3-4). The wrath of the Lord is described as the fire of his jealousy (Zephaniah 1:18, 3:8). Jesus will return to judge the earth as an avenging fire (2 Thessalonians 1: 5-8).

Lord Jesus, we thank you for dying on the cross for our sin to save us from the fiery wrath of a holy God. Father, we thank you for drawing us near to you and providing us with a way to be made righteous and approach you in love and surrender. Holy Spirit, thank you for writing the Word of God in our hearts so we desire to obey and follow you. We humble ourselves before

your mighty power and ask you to continually cleanse us and protect us from the temptation to turn away and hide from you. We boldly come before you and ask you in your love to reveal anything in our lives that is not pleasing to you, so we can be cleansed and made holy in your sight and whole in our bodies, minds, and spirits. Amen.