

## When Drought Comes, Then Comes the Fire

There is a saying in the American west, “When drought comes, then comes the fire.” The events in Montana in 1910 reveal the deadly truth of this statement. For the two years prior to 1910, woefully small amounts of



precipitation fell on the western part of the mountain state. All summer long sizzling heat conditions sucked the moisture out of the great forests making them a veritable tinder box. In August three small blazes broke out; and, then fanned by a powerful wind, they combined into a terrible blazing inferno. The updraft caused by the searing heat generated winds in excess of hundred miles an hour. Entire trees were uprooted and sent flying, flaming, into the sky. Towns were burnt to the ground. Firefighters were mostly helpless against its overwhelming power. The energy released by the flames was said to be greater than a nuclear explosion. The power of the fire was hardly imaginable by anyone not present.



An old timer who witnessed the effects of the fire said, “You can’t outrun wind and fire that are traveling 70 miles an hour. You can’t hide when you are surrounded by red hot color. You can’t see when it is pitch-black in the afternoon...”

Hopefully the American West will never again experience a forest fire of this magnitude. However, there is a drought of a different sort that

has potentially even more disastrous effects. This drought is a drought of the soul and is caused by the withering effects of living apart from God. If this drought goes on for a lifetime and a soul never comes to know and love its Maker, the destruction it will experience will be greater by far than any forest fire. Souls who don’t come to repentance and faith in Christ will personally experience firsthand the wrath of God. His wrath against sinners who lived their lives in an affront to his majesty will be terrible to behold. The Bible describes the environment where impenitent souls spend eternity, as the “Lake of Fire”. The idea of a “lake” carries with it the idea of immersion. How horrible the thought of spending the endless ages of eternity surrounded by red hot color in the “Lake of Fire.” But this is exactly the vivid

picture God paints for us in Revelation 21:8. “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake of fire which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

God is an infinite being and those who offend him and never make amends must suffer accordingly. The agony of hell is forever. “These shall go away into everlasting punishment.” (Mat.25:46) Don’t buy into the idea that the soul of man has no existence after death. Man is God’s special creation. He was made in God’s image, and given the power of a free will. God will honor the choices every man makes in this life. Those who reject his offer of a free salvation through his Son will have their choice honored by being removed out of his presence into the darkness of hell for all eternity.



The darkness of a lost eternity what a thought! The Great Montana Forest fire pumped so much smoke and ash into the sky that the afternoon sky was pitch black. The pitch blackness of that sky is a terrible picture of the blackness of “outer darkness”, “Bind him hand and foot, and cast him into the outer darkness, where there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” (Mat. 22:13) That darkness shall overtake everyone who dies in their sins apart from the Savior.

The only way to make amends for one’s deeds is to come to the Lord Jesus Christ with all your sin, guilt, and shame. The blood Jesus Christ shed on the cross has the power to wash the vilest sinner clean. “The blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son cleanseth from all sin”( 1John 1:7). His blood has the power to wash so clean that the all-searching, all-knowing eyes of God will not see a speck of sin remaining. It is a cleansing that all men need from the most respectable to the most dissolute. It is a cleansing that all those who realize their lost condition and place their faith in the Savior receive the moment they believe. The Lord Jesus Christ is a divine person who took upon himself a human nature so that he was both Man and God at the same time. As man he could suffer death, as God his death has an infinite value to cancel out sin. Therefore the blood he shed on the cross has an ample power to wipe away the darkest stains of sin. Even if your sins were a thousand times worse than they are, his blood could wash their guilt completely away.

Men in the terrible forest fire could not outrun the flames, nor could they hide from the extreme heat. Neither can man in his own strength or wisdom cannot run or hide from the wrath of God. The only way to escape is to come to Christ. Although you have spent your life apart from him and pursued many things which in the depths of your heart you must know he hates, if you come to him with a broken heart, he will

receive you fully. He will make you his and put a new life in you. By looking to him with singleness of heart, he will slowly repair the terrible damage sin has done to your inmost being until in heaven you will be completely healed. Then for all eternity, healed from sin's withering effects, you will be able to enjoy God fully.



The atmosphere of heaven will be full of light. Just to be there, will fill a person with more joy than they could ever have experienced while on earth.

God is great! Don't trifle with him. The horrors of hell, and the wonders of heaven are both great. Don't pass into eternity in a drought condition. In the Lord Jesus alone can a sinner ever find the "water of life". Each one who feels a thirst in

their soul is invited to come and drink freely. "And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him come and take the water of life freely." (Rev. 21:17)

A person can drink of the water of life for the first time when they come to Christ. There is no other way to end the drought condition in your soul. Will you do it?