



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

# Short Study 31: Biblical Symbols 5 - Fire

Study Author: Michael Button

Read Luke 12:49-53

There are 424 references to *fire* in the Bible. Most occurrences are literal, but many times the word is used metaphorically, illustrating a variety of different things.

Below is a list of ten things that are symbolised by fire, with examples of where they can be found. Choose as many of them as time allows, read the suggested verses. Then, using a concordance, see if you can find some other references where the symbol of fire is used in similar ways.

Anger	Psalm 89:46
Careless talk	James 3:5.
Destruction	Psalm 18:8.
God's glory	Ezek 1:4,13.
The Holy Spirit	Acts 2:13.
Jealousy	Zeph 3:8.
Judgment/Hell	Rev 20:15.
Quality control	1 Cor 3:13.
Sanctification	Rev 3:18.
Suffering	Psalm 66:12.

**To think about:** In Leviticus 10 v 1 we read that the sons of Aaron *offered profane fire before the Lord* (NIV *unauthorised fire*; Heb. *zuwr* = 'strange'). What do you think this means, and what are the implications for us today?

**To dig deeper:** In Luke 12:49, Jesus says he "*I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!*" Read what the commentator say about this statement.