

Weekly Word

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By Mary Ruth Stone

Devotion

The Fire of God in the Call and the Command

The call of Moses to be the deliverer of God's people was so dramatic that most everyone knows its connection to the phrase, "the burning bush." Moses was tending flocks in the desert when he saw a bush on fire that was not consumed. He was surprised and intrigued by the unusual sight and went close to the bush to observe. *God called to him from the midst of the bush. . . .*

His immediate response to the fire of God was, "Here am I." For sure, such a sight would get one's attention generating awe and humility. However, when Moses heard God's description of his momentous task, he was afraid. Yet he obeyed, because the fire of God is persuasive!

As the Exodus of God's children progressed, the partnership between God and Moses involved a lot more fire than a mere bush could contain. The multitude made it out of Egypt, across the Red Sea, into the Wilderness of Sinai and *camped there before a mountain*. God once again called Moses, this time from the mountain, and he went up. He heard the commandments of God, went back down, and led the people in consecration preparing for a divine visitation. In due time, God showed up.

Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. . . . And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to gaze at the Lord, and many of them perish . . . Away! Get down and then come up, you and Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the Lord, lest He break out against them" (Exodus 19).

The Ten Commandments and attendant details were given to Moses in fire and smoke. His Law is to be obeyed. His Son Jesus, the fulfillment of the Law, is to be sought and worshiped.

Scripture

"And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed"

(Exodus 3:2).

This 'n That

"We can't even begin to imagine what God is like: all our pictures are shockingly dazzling, and yet they don't even scratch the surface of the unutterable wonder of His inexpressible infinity. Why are we such blind fools in our presumptions that we do not trust this God who exercises His might on our behalf?"

— Marva Dawn

Prayer

Holy Father,

I humble myself in Your awesome sight! Amen.
Awestruck,
Mary Ruth