

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

In the account of the temple dedication, we read that FIRE from heaven came down to consume the offerings upon the altar. Just as there was not the sound of a hammer heard in the construction of that temple, so, no man was able to kindle such a FIRE as fell that day. This was not the first time GOD revealed HIMSELF in a heaven-sent inferno. When the Tabernacle was first set up, HE consumed the offerings from off the altar, nor would it be the last time. Who can forget the showdown between Elijah and the priests of Baal? Elijah issued this challenge to them, *“And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God.”* Then after many hours GOD was pleased to manifest HIS glory by the very fire that Elijah described, *“Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.”* This was indeed an unquenchable fire because it was not kindled by men. Yet because of the innate depravity of men, it was not many years before many turned back to the worship of Baal and sought out many inventions, preferring to worship and serve the creature more than the CREATOR.

CHRIST is that FIRE sent from heaven which not only consumes the offerings which were placed upon the altar by HIS own hand but was HIMSELF both the OFFERING and the SLAYER of the sacrifice. It shall ever remain a mystery to our wondering minds that HE would subject HIMSELF to the same law whose condemnation it pleased HIM to place HIS elect bride under. HE who thought it not robbery to be equal with GOD made HIMSELF of no reputation and humbled HIMSELF under the debt of sin which HIS people owed. Yet HE being a HIGH PRIEST forever over the house of GOD, HE entered in once into the holy place and obtained eternal redemption for HIS bride, who is the object of HIS everlasting love. This will be the subject of the praises and worship of the saints throughout the ages to come? *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”* Having redeemed HIS people by HIS own blood, HE is currently engaged in manifesting the glory of HIS kingdom by the gathering of them from the four winds. *“If he cut off, and shut up, or gather together, then who can hinder him?”*

Men love the orderly ways of their religious services and delight in their rituals. Yet when the LORD is pleased to visit HIS possession, all of those things become as dung and nothing but that worship which is of the hidden man of the heart will suffice. This is because this worship is that which is kindled by HIS SPIRIT and can be neither extinguished nor aided by the works of the flesh. When the LORD visits HIS temple, HE is pleased to perform a complete work *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”* There is no reformation nor renovation of the flesh, but this is a totally new creation which heretofore did not exist in any form known to men. This is that which the LORD spoke to Nicodemus about, *“That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”*

When the LORD performs a work, HE will carry it through to completion. *“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.”* There is no shadow of turning with HIM, HE knows those who belong to HIM and HE shall neither slumber nor sleep until HIS wheat is safely garnered.

Unless a man had been there on the day when the FIRE of GOD fell in Solomon’s temple, it would be difficult to comprehend it and even those who were there could hardly recount it without being overwhelmed by the majesty of it rather than the intricate details of exactly how it took place. So it is when GOD visits HIS temple and brings HIS own from darkness to light they may not be able to recount or explain every detail of HIS dealing with them but they can confess, *“One thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see.”*

While all our hearts and all our songs, Join to admire the feast,
 Each of us cry, with thankful tongues, “Lord, why was I a guest?”
 “Why was I made to hear thy voice, And enter while there’s room;
 When thousands make a wretched choice, And rather starve than come?”
 ’Twas the same love that spread the feast That sweetly forced us in;
 Else we had still refused to taste, And perished in our sin.

“Thy free grace alone,” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthe poor@windstream.net**