

I called my message today Fire and ash.

I will begin by reading Leviticus 6:9-12 and they are really interesting verses and they tell us so much and I don't think what the verses are telling us has ever been spoken about here at FiG before in the way I will be looking at it maybe it has in other forms but not in the terms in which Leviticus 6 uses.

we read there Command Aaron and his sons, saying, this is the law of the burnt offering for burning upon the altar all night until morning, and the fire of the altar shall be burning in it, and the priest shall put on his linen garment, and he shall put his linen breeches on his flesh, and take up the ashes which the fire has consumed with the burnt offering upon the altar, and shall put them beside the altar, and he shall strip off his garments and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes outside the camp to a clean place, and the fire upon the altar shall be kept burning.

What is that verse all about I mean is there is possibly another meaning hidden in that temple command which Aaron was told to instruct his sons I truly believe that there is another meaning and sadly because a lot of people now believe that the old testament the tabernacle and the temple because the temple was destroyed in 70 ad that the old testament is old news and has been done away with and we don't really need to read about that stuff any more.

Well how wrong can people be the whole bible in its entirety is I feel one long book which spans the history of life on this earth from the beginning to the end and beyond and all of the bible is important.

If we cannot understand the things which happened in the past then how are we to understand the things which will happen at the end and into the future without the books of Daniel and Ezekiel the book of Revelation might still be a mystery it's like the 2 books

are keys and Revelation is the lock the two books are like a 2 key safe both keys are required to unlock the safe.

In those 4 verses in Leviticus we are given so much information and when we venture further into the bible those 4 verses begin to make a lot sense because those verses i feel are keys which help open up our minds.

Its like the book of numbers we see lots and lots of numbers in Numbers chapters 2 and 3 there we see numbers of people in the tribes who were camped around the tabernacle then in carefully selected tribes of three situated N S E W we see a picture form.
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You see those numbers of each of the 3 tribes in fact when added together prophecies how Lord Jesus would die on a cross but to many people they are just a bunch of useless numbers. but they are much more as I just said they actually prophesied in the numbers of the tribes 1460 years before Jesus was crucified by what method He would be die so just numbers on a page no.

The question then we must ask ourselves if we belong to GOD who or what are we fair question some say that we are a Christian well **yes true we are** but we are much more than just a Christian if we have accepted Jesus into our hearts as our Lord and Saviour much more.

In the new testament 1 Corinthians 3:16 very plainly tells us what we are if and only if we have accepted Jesus into our hearts it says **Don't you understand that you are GOD's temple, and that the spirit of GOD is dwelling in you.**

Pretty straight forward i would say we are more than just Christians.

But verse 17 goes that wee bit further it then tells us **if anyone defiles the temple of GOD, GOD shall destroy him because the temple of GOD is Holy, which temple you are.**

So GOD dwells in us that is **we our bodies are His temple here on Earth right now.**

2 Corinthians 5:1-2 for we know that if our Earthly house of this tabernacle is destroyed, we have a building from GOD, a house not made with human hands, eternal in the heavens, for in this we truly are groaning, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven.

When we take a look at the cross which the numbers of the combined 3 tribes made up around the tabernacle then we also discover that the centre where the tabernacle was pitched actually is **the heart** just like where our heart is located in our body.

And from our heart is where we offer our prayers of sincerity to the Father our heart is located where the incense and sacrifice smoke rose upwards from the tabernacle which was located in the centre of all the tribes.

So the book of numbers does contain some wonderful glimpses of the future and some keys to understanding other books Especially in the New Testament.

The word of God should burn in our hearts and minds the Holy Spirit in us should **ignite our hearts like a flame of fire** we read in **Luke 24:32 and they said to one another, did not **our hearts burn within us as He was speaking to us on the road, while He was opening the scriptures to us.****

Their hearts burned like a flame inside them.

In **Acts 2:1-4** we read **and when the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, was being fulfilled, they were all with one accord in the same place, and suddenly there came from heaven the sound like the rushing of a powerful wind, and filled the whole house where they were sitting, and there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and sat upon each of them, and they were filled with the Holt Spirit.**

Here is a similar verse from the old Testament.

Jeremiah 20:9 says but i say, i will not mention Him, nor speak in His name any more, then His word was in my heart like a burning fire

shut up in my bones and i am weary with holding it in, and i could not stop.

And as i mentioned before our bodies are **right now** the temple of GOD.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 tells us What, Don't you know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, which you have **within you** from God, and **you are not your own, for you were bought with a price.**

Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.. We have a spirit in us right now this very second.

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Matthew 10:19-20 tells us not to worry **if** we truly belong to the Father there we read **But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.**

So as those scriptures so clearly point out if we belong to GOD then **our heart is on fire** it is **burning** but how does this fit in with Leviticus 6.

Well its quite simple really if we belong to the Father through Christ Jesus our LORD then **the fire signifies God's Holy Spirit in us** the **Holy Spirit working in us** it signifies GOD **dwelling in us.**

And the Holy Spirit will work within each of us in a different way remember God **is** the master potter and He has created every vessel of clay **unique** and the definition of unique means that each one of us is the **only one of its kind** unlike anything else **distinctive individual special** yes we may look alike to each other because we all look human but **its what we cannot see that makes us unique** it is what **God has created in us that makes us unique to Him special to Him.**

Not everyone thinks or acts the same put 100 people in a room and you will have 100 opinions and out of those 100 opinions maybe 1 may agree completely with another's opinion.

The Holy Spirit in us will lead us guide us and bring us into a closer relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

So what better place for God to build His temple **within us** in **1 Peter 2:4-5** we read some more precious words to Whom coming, as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God, and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house, a Holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

verse 9 says but you are a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession of God, that you might proclaim His excellent virtues Who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.

The words living stones is an interesting expression that tells me that all true genuine Christians are living stones in virtue of their union with the one true living Stone.

Jesus said in **John 14:19** Because I live, you shall live also.

We read about the stone that cut without human hands in **Daniel 2:24** The **stone cut out without hands** i believe represented the kingdom of our Lord Jesus.

And the reason why I feel that a stone here symbolizes the kingdom of Lord Jesus is because Jesus Christ is spoken of in Scripture as a chief cornerstone.

If we are living stones in Christ then we when put together form **His living church.**

The parallel passage in **Jude 1:20** But you beloved, be building up yourselves on your most holy faith praying in the Holy Spirit.

Christ is the Builder of His Church because He is the main Foundation Lord Jesus Christ **is the chief cornerstone** remember Jesus said to Peter in **Matthew 16:18** but **Upon this rock I will build My Church upon Himself** He will build His church because He and only He is the foundation the chief corner stone and we if we believe and truly follow Him we then become living stones who **each** form a part of this magnificent building.

Ephesians 2:20-21 you are being built up on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being **the chief Cornerstone**, in Whom all the building, being conjointly fitted together, is increasing into a Holy temple of the Lord, in Whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit.

Each one of us is a small piece of that wonderful building and each one of us collectively forms along with our other brothers and sisters in Christ His Church.

We form a building not made with physical material but spiritual consisting not of dead stones but of purified souls resting on no earthly foundation but on that Rock which is Jesus Christ our Lord. The stones in the spiritual temple are living stones and they are also priests and Kings.

Similar to the tabernacle and priests in Leviticus 6 only our job will be i believe different to that of what they did back then we will be working along with Jesus Christ and the Father to do His work in this world.

According to the scriptures all Israelites if they obeyed the voice of God were to be a kingdom of priests **Exodus 19:6** **You shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**

This ideal is fulfilled i feel in the Church because it is to God a holy priesthood.

1 Peter 2: 9 we read that the Church collectively is called a priesthood **But you are a chosen stock, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for a possession of God, that you may proclaim His excellent virtues, Who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.**

Also **Revelation 1:6 5:10 and 20:6** also bear witness to this as well.

We also read in **Hebrews 4:14** that Jesus Christ is the great High Priest.

We are truly blessed that we have the Holy Spirit in us working moulding us into vessels **worthy of honour to the Father**.

So i feel i have established that the Holy Spirit is referred to in the bible as fire and burning and yes there are other references to the Holy Spirit being like a dove as well but i wanted to show that the Holy Spirit is also referred to as fire and burning and we are being moulded and shaped so that we collectively as many individual tabernacles form all the living stones which make up the LORDS Church.

Usually when there is a fire we find 2 other ingredients one is oxygen to give the fire power and more intensity and the other ingredient is ashes ashes is what remains after the oxygen and fire have consumed what it was burning.

Now ashes in the bible symbolize mourning mortality and repentance.

For instance we read in the Book of Esther about Mordecai Esters Uncle putting on sackcloth and ashes when he heard of the decree of King Ahasuerus.

We also read in **Jonah 3:5-6** about Jonah's preaching of conversion and repentance to the town of Nineveh and the king of Nineveh

proclaiming a fast and the king and all the towns people covered themselves with sackcloth and sat in ashes.

Jesus Himself also made several references to ashes one when He Referred to towns that refused to repent of their sin although they had witnessed the miracles and heard the good news our Lord said in **Matthew 11:21** woe to you Chorazin, Woe to you Bethsaida, for **If the miracles that have taken place in you had taken place in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.** Poor Job was in such a bad way that we read in **Job 42:6** **Therefore I abhor myself, And I repent in dust and ashes.**

But i believe that there is more to ashes than we read there.

Malachi 4:3 is getting closer to what i am trying to say it says and **You shall trample the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I am preparing, says the LORD of hosts.**

Also **Ezekiel 28:18** is another fantastic example **By the multitude of your iniquities, by the unrighteousness of your trade, You have **profaned your sanctuaries.** Therefore I brought forth a fire from your midst; It shall **devour you**, And I will bring you to ashes upon the earth, before the eyes of all who see you.**

Now i am getting hotter and closer and i think maybe you see a picture forming one last scripture about ashes and i think this message has more scriptures than i usually use and there are a few more yet.

Isaiah 44:20 **He feeds on ashes; and a deceived heart has turned him aside, so that he cannot deliver his soul, neither does he say, Is this not a falsehood in my right hand.**

Isaiah said there he feeds on ashes and a deceived heart has turned him aside.

What is it to feed on ashes well i believe that it is referring to someone who continually tells lies.

Lies are ashes to him and he cannot help himself he feeds on them like food in fact lies seem to be his food.

There is only one true living God by Whom through all things were created and exist however man has continually ignored this wonderful knowledge and have replaced Him with wood stone gold and silver and in this modern age in which we now live we have so many distractions to keep our minds occupied and off God

Yes sadly men and women do still bow down before images of people and also before images of what they believe hold more value than Jesus they by bowing down before an image and crossing their chests however they do it or by kissing the hand or even kissing the feet of these images are in fact **worshipping the image** they are putting this image above God and worshipping a **dumb idol**.

Because that is all that they are they are a dumb idol which cannot talk or walk or see or hear or breathe.
Jesus is alive He breathes and He gives us life.

We through Jesus Who is in the Father and Who is also in us through the Holy Spirit within us are also **alive** we have **a fire burning in our hearts that cannot be put out by any man** but we ourselves can extinguish it if if we are not careful.

In saying that we need to be very careful we need to constantly be on watch **Matthew 26:41** is a warning **Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation** **The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak**.

Yes the flesh is truly weak.

The fire inside is willing to help us but we are also weak that is why we must continually be on guard Jesus knew that Satan would pull out all stops to tempt us away from God and His ways.

We are i believe getting very close to the last days in fact looking around the world today i feel that things will begin to rapidly take place which will fulfil prophecy because Jesus said in **Revelation 22:12** **look i come quickly.**

possibly meaning when things start to happen which are prophesised they will quickly snowball because when we see it all unfolding in front of our eyes we had better be ready when the call goes out.

So knowing that we are priests right now as 1 Peter 2 told us before and knowing that we have this burning fire in our hearts that will not go out unless we extinguish it through something silly that we did by making some wrong choices then we like the priests in **Leviticus 6:9-12** have a job to do within ourselves within this temple where God resides in us.

So as i see it we now have a responsibility a huge responsibility as priests in charge of our body this body of flesh and blood which is if we are the LORDS His **special temple** remember **1 Corinthians 3:16** tells us very plainly if we have accepted Jesus in our hearts then **we are the temple of God.**

And **1 Peter 2:4-5** we are **being built up as a spiritual house, a Holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ** that is from this temple which is our body.

I will leave it for there for a moment and look at **Leviticus 10:1** it tells us a lot if we are to be priests in charge of our own temple we read there **And Nadab and Abihu the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, and put incense on it, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He commanded them not to.**

The censer is like our hearts with fire in it the Holy Spirit burning in it.

So the sons of Aaron **knowingly after being told exactly what to do deliberately went ahead and offered up strange fire and incense to**

the LORD why do you think that this verse was added in Leviticus just to fill up space in the book.

No it certainly was not it is recorded for **a reason** i believe that that verse holds a huge message for us also and i know that you are at the moment ahead of me with what it meant but just in case you are not.

Revelation 8:3-4 gives us the answer.

We read there **and another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar, and much incense was given to him, so that he might offer it with the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar that was before the throne, and the smoke of the incense went up before God from the hand of the angel, ascending with the prayers of the Saints.**

Revelation 5:8 also says **and when He took the book, the four living creatures and the 24 elders fell down before the Lamb, each having harps and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the Saints.**

Well i think you get the picture our hearts are a burning altar of fire and when we offer a prayer that fire is placed on a golden a censer which belongs to God which is also located in our hearts and it is situated right now in His tabernacle your body that is IF you belong to Him then we are living stones and we are priests in this our body who offer up incense to GOD the Father through the precious name of Jesus Christ our LORD.

It is now very obvious that Nadab and Abihu offered up wrong incense the fire in their censer's detected insincerity deceitfulness disobedience falseness and i could add more if i wanted to.

They offered GOD the tares not their prayers.

If we follow idols we cannot offer GOD good incense from our altar our golden censer because that would be false and deceitful just

like i feel these men who may have been the priests we are not told but in [Ezekiel 8:16](#) we are told **and He bought me into the inner court of the LORD'S house, and behold, at the opening of the temple of the LORD , between the porch and the altar, were about 25 men with their backs towards the temple of the LORD, and their faces towards the east and they worshipped the sun towards the east.**

That is offering strange incense here they are in the LORDS temple so Who should they have been worshipping **GOD** but who were they worshipping **the sun.**

King Ahaz and the people worshipped Molech a different god a statue and they willingly offered their children as a sacrifice to this strange god as we read in [2 Chronicles 28:3](#) the children were burnt with strange fire on a false altar to a strange god who was carved out of a piece of stone or metal.

When we pray to the Father we take coals from our altar and place them onto our golden censer so that our incense rises to the Father and the Father can detect any insincerity in our prayers through our incense just like Nadab and Abihu offered strange incense and God knew immediately.

[Ephesians 5:1-2](#) plainly instructs us **therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.**

From verse 3-8 speaks about worldly ash being the things **which cause ash to pile up within us.**

Bad thoughts are ash worshipping idols is ash placing the things of this world ahead of God is ash.

Strange fire or insincere prayers are profane to God.

And the word Profane means according to the online bible dictionary characterized by irreverence or contempt for God or of sacred principles or things.

Also from pro meaning before plus the word fane which means **temple**.

Strange fire or incense offered before God's temple our bodies **profanes the temple of God** its as simple as that.

When we are commanded to honour God that means we must **honour** what He has instructed us to honour for Example His Sabbaths are Holy His Feast days are Holy and we are not to turn our backs on them if we do then the ash will pile up and pile up and the fire in temple of God will be so full of ash that the Holy Spirit cannot burn in our hearts it will be extinguished because **we chose to extinguish it by our disobedience by our profaning His word.**

Ezekiel 22:26-30 is another great example of priests profaning God's temple **her priests have done violence to My laws and have profaned My Holy things, they have put no difference between the holy and the profane, and have not taught the difference between the unclean and clean, and they have hidden their eyes from My Sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.**

Remember we are priests who minister to the LORD in our temple before our altar and we offer up incense through our prayers. So before we get down on our knees to pray to offer up our prayers we must put off our old soiled clothes and put on our priestly white linen that is important.

Righteousness wears white linen it does not and cannot wear soiled garments we must put off sin and put on righteousness.

Remember we are to imitate Jesus when we pray in white linen the oxygen flows onto the fire and the fire burns brightly burning away the repented sin and turning it into **ashes** then we as priests we must remove the ash from the fire and place it away so that the fire can keep burning brightly.

Leviticus 6:4-6 remember said and he shall put his linen breeches on his flesh , and take up the ashes which the fire has consumed with the burnt offering upon the altar, and shall put them beside the altar, and he shall strip off his garments and put on other garments, and carry forth the ashes outside the camp to a clean place, and the fire upon the altar shall be kept burning

The brighter the coals the closer to God we come we have a new heart a heart of flesh not stone and it burns it **glows** and we need to keep it clear and clean of ash **all the time** we need to get the sin out of our lives just like unleavened bread we get rid of the leaven from our houses leaven is also a picture of sin so we remove leaven from our homes the same as we remove ash from our hearts and bodies and we place it outside our bodies like we place the leaven outside of our homes.

Why do you think the children of Israel were warned in **Deuteronomy 18:9** when you come into the land which the LORD your God gives you, you shall not learn to do according to the abominations of those nations.

Quite simple really if they followed after the abominations of the nations then their fire may go out and their coals would be choked up with ashes and then after a short while the ash would completely smother the coals **extinguishing them** by cutting of the oxygen supply.

Today the warning is still out there only we find that warning in **Revelation 18:4** and i heard another voice from Heaven saying, come out of her, My people, so that you do not take part in her sins, and that you do not receive of her plagues.

Satan is the father of lies and he would just love to see your fire grow dimmer and dimmer until it finally gets choked up with ash from all the lusts and the cares of this world **his world** and he is putting every stumbling block at his disposal in front of you all it

takes is like a fish a nibble here a nibble there until you finally take big a bite and **then you are hooked.**

King Ahaz and the people sacrificed new born children to Molech a false god Satan;s false fire sadly people today are still following after satan's false fire only today molech fire is called abortion and millions of innocent soon to be **born lives** are sacrificed to Satans false fire and this just like Molech is an abomination to GOD.

What do we learn from Leviticus 6:9-12 well we learn that **if** we are God's children then we are the temple of God right now here on Earth we are living stones by which stone by stone having LORD Jesus as the main cornerstone form a spiritual building and the Father **dwells in us** through the Holy spirit within us.

We learn that we are now priests ministering in this body our temple and we must keep our altar free of ash and make sure that we keep that fire burning bright.

We learn that the Holy Spirit is the fire **burning within our hearts.**

When we pray to the Father through LORD Jesus we must pray in honesty and sincerity by putting off our sinful soiled clothes and putting on our white linen robes which are without spot or wrinkle and we through our incense our prayers put **away the sin the ash in our lives** and then remove that ash away from the fire within our hearts making sure we leave none behind.

If you have learned nothing at all from this message i urge you to make sure your fire is burning bright and the coals in your heart are glowing brightly please do not allow any ash to smother your flame and extinguish your coals. **4958**

