

## **During These Days** *He Will Baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire*

It was during those days (Mt 3:1) that John the Baptist came as prophesied by Isaiah. But this is *NOW*, for these days to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy (Isa 40:3).

But Isa 40:5 reveals the time as Lk 3:5-6. Verse 6 — All humanity shall *SEE* "Yahweh's Salvation." But in those days (Lk 2:30) Shimon and a relatively *FEW* saw Him when He came in the flesh to Judea. But Isaiah tells of the time when *ALL HUMANITY* will see Him coming in the heavens. Lk 3:6 and Rev 1:7 — for this we are now being prepared and made worthy.

Mt 3:11 — He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with Fire:

Mt 3:9-12 — are "Spirit Sons," made sons by the Spirit who is set apart for a people set apart for Him (Mt 1:23). And *THESE* made up His Body. He, the Spirit of Messiah Yahshua, is in their midst — "Immanu EL" or *El is with them (us)* — His people who He has saved (Mt 1:21).

So, according to Mt 3:11, it is not *surprising* that we all go *through the fire of purification*. But only we who have been granted the gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:13), are made ready for His return, as Isa 40:5 says. Rev 1:7; Lk 3:6 — By His purifying fire in us (Mt 3:11-12).

When Yahshua came — or when He came to us — in the "set apart Spirit" for us — we are also set apart for Him or "holy" (1 Pet 2:9-10). He comes to us not only to seal us, Eph 1:13, but to do His work of purifying us and making us *READY* and *PREPARED* for Him when he does come again, bodily (Rev 19:7-8), as a bridegroom.

Lk 1:17 — speaks of two kinds of *CHILDREN* who are made ready and prepared along with their parents — and the *FINAL GENERATION* (Rev 7:4-8; 12:1-5, 11, 12).

SO, as Mt 3:11-12 says, He comes now to us with His winnowing fork to clear out His threshing floor, the place of His operation, as 1 Cor 1:2 or 1 Tim 2:8 (in every place or locality — Mal 1:11), gathering His wheat into *HIS BARN* (kingdom), but burning up the chaff with an unquenchable fire (Mt 13:49-50 and 40, 41, 42, 43, and 30).

Pr 25:4-5 — It is only the *dross* who leaves, purged from among us (1 Jn 2:19); the silver remains to be formed into the vessel for the King. Pr 20:26 in the Amplified (wicked — Dan 12:10; Ps 101:8).

Remember: *refractory* = resistant to heat, unmanageable, difficult to treat or work, resists treatment.

Mk 9:49 as Mt 3:11 says — It is one fire or the other. One is the fire of purification *within theedah, the community* — which serves for the purpose of making ready a people. Or it is the other fire, in another place, which Mk 9:48 speaks of. Which *FIRE* do you prefer, in which place? Verse 48 or 49? *IT IS ONE OR THE OTHER* (Gal 6:7-8; Eze 22:18; Isa 60:17; Jer 6:30).

In verse 50 it says that if the community is not the *SALT of purification* — *SALT PURIFIES, IT BURNS LIKE FIRE* all that needs to be healed — then there is no reason for the community. Apart from being the *FIRE*, the *SALT* that purifies us (Mt 1:21 for He will "save, heal" His people), community is useless.

There is no reason for the existence of the Edah (or church), the community, or Body of Messiah, if it loses its salt (Lk 14:31-35). No longer is it *HIS* threshing floor (Pr 20:26).

So, *WE* must have *SALT* in ourselves — which brings the *PEACE* that passes all understanding. *SHALO M.....* (Love, unity, peace) Eph 4:2,3

The community is not for *good times, sports, etc.*, but for the reason the Holy Spirit was given to man, to bring out, and reveal what keeps us from the kingdom. Dt 8:2,3,5,6,7-20 — Hard times show us what is in us that would destroy the Kingdom (Acts 14:22, 1 Cor 3:16).

Just remember 1 Cor 10:6-12,13. Salt heals, brings out the impurities, like in our own personal bodies, like the Body of Messiah. Pr 25:4-5 — *Salt removes the insincere from the sincere*. As Mt 3:11 — whoever has received the Holy Spirit will undergo the process of purification, in the *FIRE OF COMMUNITY LIFE* (the threshing floor of the Wise King).

Just because you may be the *OTHER KIND OF CHILD* (even incredulous) in Lk 1:17, that does not necessarily mean that you do not have the Holy Spirit to purify you or cannot have the Holy Spirit to prepare you for Yahshua. There are *TWO KINDS* of children here — the disobedient in heart (passive

rebellion can be dealt with by “the salt” of the Holy Spirit). 2 Ths 2:13-15 — The fire sanctifies us, frees us from all impurity, cleanses, that we may be able to enter into His rest.

So, as Mt 3:2 says — *DO IT AND LIVE*

1 Cor 9:24-27; Heb 12:6-13 (Amplified)

What does this mean in Mt 3:12 — winnowing fork in His hand.... It means Jer 15:7 — Winnowing is a figure of judgment (Jer 51:2; Pr 20:8,26; Isa 41:16). In Jer 51:2 “to winnow her.” The Hebrew for this phrase is an excellent example of what it means in Jms 1:12.

Winnowing is done by tossing the grain into the air with winnowing forks so that the wind blows away the straw and chaff, *BUT* leaves the *GRAIN* no where else except at the Winnower’s Feet (Ps 1:4,5,6 — as was delivered to you last year; Pr 26:23-26 Ps 11:4-7).

In Pr 20:26 a wise King, as 25:5 says speaking of the *dross* in the silver. Verse 4 — the threshing wheel, the wheel of the threshing cart that separated the grain from the husk. Isa 28:27-28, the wicked. Dan 12:10 — the wicked will be separated from the righteous and duly punished (Dan 12:2).

Mt 3:11-12 — Yahshua comes with His winnowing fork in His Hand and tosses the whole community up in the air — the Wind of the Holy Spirit blows the chaff away and the grains of *TRUE WHEAT* fall at His feet, having been tested as to their glory (Jn 17:22).

But the winnowing is not the final test either:

The *FIRST* of the testing process is the *THRESHING* — the loosening of the grain from the straw, usually done by beating it or by treading of cattle (Dt 25:4; Hos 1:10; Isa 41:15). Amos 1:3 — by toothed threshing sledges or wheels of carts (Isa 28:28). This prepares people for

The *SECOND* part which is the *WINNOWING* when what has been threshed is tossed up into the air. What was not *REAL* wheat or grain blew away by the wind. The real grain fell at the feet of the *ONE* who had the winnowing fork in His Hand.

The *LAST* process, if that was not enough (which it is not!), is the *SIFTING* process. Amos 9:9 — sifting the grain to remove any foreign matter or residual. Then the wheat was ready to be *BAGGED* and put into *His Barn* for His use.

*ALL THIS TAKES PLACE ON HIS THRESHING FLOOR* by the only wise King (Pr 20:26). Mt 3:12 — His winnowing fork is in His Hand and He will clear His threshing floor — gathering His wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with everlasting or eternal fire.

Mt 3:10; Jn 15:5-8; Mt 24:9-13,40,41; 25:2 — Fifty percent of the virgins were not wise in understanding, but were lawless, wanting to live for themselves instead of for the Master who bought them (2 Cor 5:15; 2 Pet 2:1-2; Jn 14:15,21-24).

It *SEEMS* that even in the wilderness only fifty percent will be taken up (Rev 17:14; Lk 17:34-37), according to Mt 25:2. Fifty percent were sifted after a *closer examination* (1 Cor 11:27-32; 1 Jn 2:27-28 Heb 9:28; 2 Tim 4:8; Heb 10:38; Rev 3:4-5).

#### **Last Year Summary:**

**Ps 1:6 — Two life styles in the community: open and underground. Those who repented and made open confession are prospering one year later. But NOT SO with “the wicked” (verses 4 and 5). We can fool everyone but we cannot fool God. Verse 6 — He is never too far away. Pr 15:29,31,32,33 — Two ways contrasted (Mt 7:13-14; Dan 12:2,3,10).**

Two paths (Ps 1:1). The underground, the wicked or the unwise, who will not gain understanding due to their own folly.

Ps 1:4 — The wicked are like the chaff which blows away. Chaff is carried away by the slightest wind and its removal brings about cleansing by extracting what is useless — even as the sons/builders or destroyers, in Isa 49:17.

Ps 1:6 — Way of the righteous and the way of the wicked, implied in the destinies of the *TWO* lifestyles are also the destinies of those who choose them (Lk 1:17).

Jer 6:27-30 — In ancient times lead was added to silver ore in the refining process. When the crucible was heated the lead oxidized and acted as a flux to remove the alloys. Here the process fails because the ore is not pure enough (Eze 24:11-12). In Jer 6:30 — They had failed to pass YHWH's test. Nothing worthwhile can be made of them. Mt 21:43; Eze 24:11 is a vain final effort at purification (Mal 3:2; Gen 22:1; Jn 8:39; Gal 3:29; Gen 18:19).