

CONSUMING FIRE

(For our God is a consuming fire . . . — Hebrews 12:29)

1. The Godhead

Three Flames eternal, ever joined as One;
No waxing, waning; always All complete;
No past where Their enkindling was begun;
Forever fused in Union's loving Heat.

In openness, this Triune God, so wed,
Is naked Love, by nature and by name;
This Being's matchless Light is interfed
By single Will igniting single Flame.

Such Love in Light—Society Supreme,
The Great I AM of mutuality—
Agreed, reciprocal in Mind and dream,
To make from nothing all reality.

Consuming Fire blew lightless void away:
His blasting bang cast starry night's array.

2. The Big Bang

His blasting bang cast starry night's array
By filling emptiness at measured speed
To form our home within the Milky Way
And ev'ry element that life would need.

His blast's velocity was no mistake.
If at a slower or at faster rate,
Black holes alone would swim the cosmic lake
Or stars could not condense and propagate.

The pull of matter's weight was so well planned,
Its flashing speed congealed a precious pearl:
The carbon atom, by whose bonds' command
All Terra's wealth of living cells unfurl.

As "It is good!" left lips of Flaming One,
His blazing touch precisely shaped our Sun.

3. Solar Center

His blazing touch precisely shaped our Sun,
Two thousand times less massive than the size
Of supergiants, and around it spun
Nine clouds of star-dust, soon to crystalize.

This mass-bound oscillating ball of might,
In fission's burst and fusion's super blast,
Reacts, renews in cycles, thrusting light
Till stores of hydrogen burn up at last.

Our system's central sphere of gravity—
Its orphans tightly held in orbit's whim—
Depicts bright Source of human destiny,
A metaphor that we must cling to Him.

Consuming Fire had us in mind the day
He molded Earth from magma's hot display.

4. Terra's Birth

He molded Earth from magma's hot display,
Then cooled her surface with torrential rains.
From deep beneath her mantle, molten fray
Belched lava peaks and buckled mountain chains.

The washing waters coalesced in seas,
And life marine, from depths of ocean mire,
Emerged unique to match the subtleties
in flashing speeches from Creative Fire.

When seeded plants and sentient beasts from soil
Were born, God shaped Mankind and breathed us warm
To guard, as servants, Terra's gifts with toil,
But we succumbed to lying Serpent storm.

With Eden lost, our race's case was dire,
Then Adam's son, to worship, built a fire.

5. Abel's Altar

Then Adam's son, to worship, built a fire.
That second child from Eden's naked pair
Received an inner word to raise a pyre
And slay a lamb to burn as off'ring there.

He shared this precept with his brother Cain,
Who offered fruits from cold but fertile ground—
Not flesh from living flocks whose warmth was slain,
Presaging future Sacrifice profound...

Enraged, he shed his prophet-brother's blood.
Its clotted cry for justice Heaven heard:
Cain's line and kind were wiped away by flood.
Then, after Noah's altar, came a third...

The paschal lamb, but not that rite alone:
On fiery mount, God burned His Law in stone.

6. Tabernacle Fire

On fiery mount, God burned His Law in stone,
And altar sacrifice became the rule,
As innocence was offered to atone
For sins—sad need... but also teaching tool.

A vision-patterned worship-Tent was built
Where Levites served with Aaron's sons as priests,
To lead the bloody task of lifting guilt,
To guard the ceremonies, guide the feasts.

Above this Holy Place by night and day
Consuming Fire appeared as columned smoke,
Led multitude upon their desert way,
As fiery pillar, shimmered, shined and spoke.

Inside, His incense burned as sacred fire,
Ordaining Tent where seekers could enquire.

7. Prophet Fire

Ordaining Tent where seekers could enquire,
God called them then—now calling us—to prayer,
To seek His will above their own desire
And trust His Love to keep them in His care.

When they had banished idols from the land,
God's people sought out Baal and left His Tent.
So He raised up a preaching seer-band,
Inflamed their hearts and lips to cry, "Repent!"

In match with pagan priests, Elijah cried,
"Now choose!" then prayed, and fire from Heaven fell.
The people turned, and those false leaders died.
Prophetic word is bane to slaves of Hell.

The darkness flees, where Light Divine is shown;
Lift high the lamp, and make God's glory known.

8. Light of the World

"Lift high the lamp, and make God's glory known!"
Was preached upon the mount by Christ the Lord,
The Flaming Word enfleshed with blood and bone,
Whose teaching some embraced and some ignored.

In Him, Consuming Fire burned bright and clear.
As Love, He healed the sick, set free the bound;
As Light, He opened eyes and challenged fear;
As Shepherd, sought lost sheep till they were found.

"Come follow Me," He called, then Jesus knelt
As if a slave, to wash disciples' feet.
But on religious pride He left a welt,
And felt the scourge of brokers in deceit.

'Midst priestly shame and Pontius Pilate's loss,
Christ's heart of passion flamed upon the Cross.

9. The Passion

Christ's heart of passion flamed upon the Cross:
His tortured tongue licked death for ev'ry man.
It was no gambling game of pitch and toss
But task precise, in line with Heaven's plan.

He took on flesh so He could take on sin
And nail a dying race upon the Tree.
New fruit of resurrected life within
Would now become believer's destiny.

From empty tomb, He tarried forty days,
Instructing followers to pray and wait
The coming of another Flame to blaze
The Gospel trail, our world to liberate.

As prayer went up in praise without constraints,
With torch-like tongues, His Spirit fell on saints.

10. Pentecostal Fire

With torch-like tongues, His Spirit fell on saints.
In foreign speech they prophesied God's Word,
Which drew a crowd and various complaints,
Till Peter spoke, explaining what they heard.

"This is that Day God promised long ago,
When men and women, old and young, would speak
Inspired by God, to let all nations know
That Jesus is the Savior all should seek!"

The Spirit-Fire filled up that tiny troop
To shine the Light and share the Word abroad
And thrive, as sep'rate souls and as a group,
In holy ways, performing works of God.

With double-flame, the Dove applied the Cross,
Infusing Love and purging lives from dross.

11. Indwelling Fire

Infusing Love and purging lives from dross,
The Holy Spirit digs for deeper needs,
Reviving broken dreams entombed in moss,
Replanting Eden's hopes, uprooting weeds.

Because first Adam's work was left undone,
God sowed again the garden deep inside,
Where Second Adam, God's indwelling Son,
Grows Spirit-fruits of blessing in His Bride.

This inner realm of righteous joy and peace
Is microcosmic type of what's to come.
Believers now, aflame with sin's release,
Contribute to the chosen Bridal Sum.

Why then this life, with trials, torts and taints?
God's Crucible, to burn up joy's restraints!

12. Refining Fire

God's Crucible, to burn up joy's restraints—
Hot Forge, where wayward wills can be reformed
As frames for Flaming Artist's holy paints
On living canvases His brush has warmed.

How soon we start to doubt the Final Judge,
When His all-knowing choices curb our own!
How slow we trust, how soon we hold a grudge,
When painful seeds of faith His hand has sown.

Again, we're microcosms of His care....
Allowed to each are crises that refine
By sov'reign heat, which hardly can compare
With what will consummate His plan divine.

The demon hosts must face their deadly due:
Consuming Fire will melt all realms untrue.

13. Apocalyptic Fire

Consuming Fire will melt all realms untrue,
As Light exposes all the devil's deeds,
All hidden crimes and wicked schemes that brew,
All policies of greed, all worthless creeds.

The scales of right and wrong will tip and tell
That Justice must begin dispensing doom—
Disasters, drought, diseases none can quell
Will punish Earth's inhabitants with gloom.

Then Armeggedon: Christ against the Beast . . .
All foes of Light, refusing to submit,
Will wail no more—their blasphemies deceased,
Their souls, with Satan, cast into the Pit.

Last battle won, what will our Bridegroom do?
Cremate death's curse, then launch the world anew!

14. Renewing Fire

“Cremate death's curse, then launch the world anew,
Our Husband King! Come resurrect Your Bride,
The Church... all trials past, all troubles through,
All martyrs raised, who for Your Gospel died!”

When Triune Flame has touched the desert plain
Fresh life will sprout, consuming barren waste.
His Fire will burn the chaff till we attain
The paradise that we were meant to taste.

Created life and land will cease to groan;
All Terra's treasures will be renewed;
With joy, the Bride will dance before the Throne
To songs wherein these tales are oft reviewed.

We'll sing to praise, while basking in the Son,
Three Flames eternal—ever joined as One.

15. The Master Plan

Three Flames eternal, ever joined as One . . .
His blasting bang, cast starry night's array;
His blazing touch precisely shaped our Sun;
He molded Earth from magma's hot display.

Then Adam's son, to worship, built a fire.
On fiery mount, God burned His Law in stone,
Ordaining Tent where seekers could enquire,
Lift high the lamp, and make God's glory known.

Christ's heart of passion flamed upon the Cross.
With torch-like tongues, His Spirit fell on saints,
Infusing Love and purging lives from dross—
God's Crucible, to burn up joy's restraints.

Consuming Fire will melt all realms untrue,
Cremate death's curse, then launch the world anew!

— *David L. Hatton, 3/26/2020*