

Making Fire
Come Down
from Heaven

Making Fire Come Down From Heaven

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

In the end time, will there come a religious personage who will be able to make fire come down from heaven? Elijah proved that he was God's true messenger when he made fire come down from heaven. Will this awesome miracle be repeated in the end time by a religious leader claiming to represent God and by this great miracle deceive the many in the world?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Phi 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God’s Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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I remember years ago hearing a minister of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) during the Feast of Tabernacles reading the following verses:

Rev 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

This second beast looked like, had the external appearance of a lamb. A lamb is symbolic of Christ and of the one and only truth which He brought from God the Father for God's Church; in other words, it symbolizes true religion. But this second beast spoke as a dragon i.e., the words coming from it were not the truth of God but lies which were spoken as being the truth of God.

Rev 13:12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

This second beast which is a great religious organization would dominate the first beast which is the civil government of a great and powerful empire which almost died out when it was fatally wounded but for its deadly wound being healed by the second beast out of the earth.

The Roman Empire suffered its deathly wound at the hands of the Van-

dals, the Herulis and the Ostrogoths and but for the ability of the papacy to cause the people to come together and under its leadership restore the power of the Roman Empire, it would have disappeared from history being absorbed by other more powerful nations. The papacy dominated the Roman Empire which then became known from that point on in history as the Holy Roman Empire.

Rev 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

This second beast did great wonders and will again do great wonders; wonders that are so great that he makes fire come down from the sky in the sight of men. And what was the result of these great wonders done by this great false religious organization.

Rev 13:14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

This great false religious power by the great wonders it did in the sight of men making fire come down from heaven gave it such great authority and prestige in men's eyes that it was able to deceive them; they believed its false teachings in great number as being the very truth of God and was successful in passing itself off as God's true Church

There is a great deal that needs to be explained about the beast and the "image" of the beast; the Holy Roman Empire and its prophesied 7 resurrections, the "great whore that sits upon many waters"; the beast power; etc. which is beyond the scope of this study. As a long-term member of God's Church you should already be familiar with these things and if not, you should personally have, or have access to, the documentation you need to refresh your memory.

Making Fire Come Down from Heaven

The Bible explains its own symbols and if we are to correctly understand the meaning of the expression "so that he maketh fire come down from heaven" we have to look into the Bible to determine if there are not other passages where the Bible speaks about making fire come down from heaven and which could help us to have the right understanding of the meaning of what it means in the New Testament to make fire come down from heaven.

After doing a bit of research, we find ourselves at 1 Kings 18 where starting in verse 20 we read the beginning of the confrontation on mount Carmel between Elijah, God's prophet and the priests of Baal. The story goes from 1 Kings 18:20 to 1 Kings 18:40.

Israel in the days of King Ahab had “forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim” (1 Kings 18:18). God, through Elijah, gave Israel a choice.

1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye [do you hesitate] between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

No one answered him as they were not ready to commit to either God or Baalim. So Elijah set up a test in the sight of the people; a contest between him and the 450 priests of Baalim whose goal was to demonstrate who it was that represented the true God which they should follow.

1Ki 18:23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

1Ki 18:24 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. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken.

1Ki 18:25 And Elijah said unto the prophets of Baal, Choose you one bullock for yourselves, and dress it first; for ye are many; and c

Whoever could make fire come down from heaven to consume their offering would be the one who represented the true God and those who could not, would then be clearly shown to not be God's true ministers or priests.

1Ki 18:26 And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.

1Ki 18:27 And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

1Ki 18:28 And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

1Ki 18:29 And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.

The Baalims despite their best and greatest efforts were not able to call fire down from heaven to consume their offering. Then Elijah set up his offering.

1Ki 18:30 And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.

1Ki 18:31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:

1Ki 18:32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed.

1Ki 18:33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

1Ki 18:34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.

1Ki 18:35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

Elijah set up his offering in such a way that it would take a lot of fire to ignite it; he made it very hard for his offering to burn so the people

would be sure if it did burn that it was God's doing and no trick on his part; there could be no doubt as to who had done it.

1 Ki 18:36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

1Ki 18:37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

1Ki 18:38 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.

1Ki 18:39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

The people having seen this great wonder done in their sight then believed that Elijah was God's true representative; that he spoke the truth of God and that they should live their lives in accordance with it to be acceptable to God.

Meaning of Revelation 13:13

Revelation 13:13 is talking about a beast with two horns that looked like a lamb but spoke as a dragon. We know that a lamb is symbolic of Christ, God's Spokesman through which God's Church received the truth which God gave through Christ to the apostles while the dragon is symbolic of Satan the Devil (Rev 12:9).

The beast which the two horns that looked like a lamb but spoke as dragon is a symbol for an organization which is both a civil and a religious power (the two horns); it is a religious power because it presents itself as a lamb but it is a false religious power because it speaks as a dragon (the devil). It is a civil government because it ruled over the first beast which was the Roman Empire which became the Holy Roman Empire under the great false religious power which ruled over it (Rev 17) and through which its fatal wound was healed. This same religious power will rule one last time (Rev 17:10) over the first beast at

the time of the last or seventh resurrection of the Holy Roman Empire which precedes Christ's Second Coming.

This great false religious organization would succeed in passing itself off as God's one true Church; it would be able to convince millions of people across the nations of the world that they are God's true representatives. This great false religion would symbolically make fire come down from heaven as Elijah had done physically. In both cases, they succeed in persuading the people that they were God's true representatives.

The lamb that had two horns and spoke as a dragon is a prophesy of the coming into being of a great false church that would spread across all nations and be thought of as being God's true church and their priests as being God's true ministers doing God's work.

Making fire come down from heaven means that the one capable of having God do this is God's true representative and that he is to be believed. The second beast, the great false religion, succeeded in passing itself off as God's true Church and in this way, it made fire come down from heaven figuratively speaking.

The leaders of this great false religion throughout the many centuries of its existence succeed in fully deceiving a vast number of people and in getting them to believe that this great false religion is God's true religion.

The wonders performed by lamb with the two horns is not being literally able to call down fire from heaven but to be able to deceive a great number of individuals into believing that it is the true Church in the same way that Elijah by making fire actually come down from the sky proved that he was the true prophet of God and that they should follow his teachings and cease from the priests of Baal.

For this great false religion to have been able to pass itself off as the true Church is the same thing as though it had been able to call fire down from heaven which in actuality it never did or will ever do as to be able to literally do so requires God's power which it never had or will ever have.

