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**A reNEWed EARTH**

By Rabbi Dr. Hillel ben David (Greg Killian)

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I would like to examine the details of a "[new](new.html)" earth. Lets start by looking at how [HaShem](hashem.html) destroyed the earth:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 6:11-14*** *Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. So God said to* [*Noah*](noachide.html)*, "I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. So make yourself an* [*ark*](ark.html) *of cypress wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out.*

[HaShem](hashem.html) destroyed the earth, with water, because it was corrupt. [HaShem](hashem.html) promised that He would never destroy the earth with water again:

***Bereshit (Genesis) 9:13-16*** *I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the* [*sign*](signs.html) *of the* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will remember my* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting* [*covenant*](covenant.html) *between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."*

After the flood, [HaShem](hashem.html) gave a little demonstration of what he would do in the [future](future.html):

***Daniel 3:19-26*** *Then Nebuchadnezzar was furious with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, and his attitude toward them changed. He ordered the furnace heated* [*seven*](seven.html) *times hotter than usual And commanded some of the strongest soldiers in his army to tie up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and throw them into the blazing furnace. So these men, wearing their robes, trousers, turbans and other clothes, were bound and thrown into the blazing furnace. The king's* [*command*](cmds613.html) *was so urgent and the furnace so hot that the flames of the* [*fire*](fire.html) *killed the soldiers who took up Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, And these* [*three*](three.html) *men, firmly tied, fell into the blazing furnace. Then King Nebuchadnezzar leaped to his* [*feet*](heel.html) *in amazement and asked his advisers, "Weren't there* [*three*](three.html) *men that we tied up and threw into the* [*fire*](fire.html)*?" They replied, "Certainly, O king." He said, "Look! I see* [*four*](four.html) *men* [*walking*](walking.html) *around in the* [*fire*](fire.html)*, unbound and unharmed, and the* [*fourth*](four.html) *looks like a son of the gods." Nebuchadnezzar then approached the opening of the blazing furnace and shouted, "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come here!" So Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the* [*fire*](fire.html)*.*

The gospels begin to predict that God will be destroying the [wicked](wicked.html) with [fire](fire.html):

***Luqas (***[***Luke***](luke.html)***) 3:15-18*** *The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the* [*Mashiach*](mashiach.html)*. John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But* [*one*](one.html) *more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with* [*fire*](fire.html)*. His winnowing fork is in his* [*hand*](fourteen.html) *to clear his threshing floor and to* [*gather*](gather.html) *the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable* [*fire*](fire.html)*." And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the* [*good news*](mishna1.html) *to them.*

***Matityahu (Matthew) 3:11-13*** *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come* [*one*](one.html) *who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with* [*fire*](fire.html)*. His winnowing fork is in his* [*hand*](fourteen.html)*, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable* [*fire*](fire.html)*." Then* [*Yeshua*](yeshua.html) *came from Galilee to the* [*Jordan*](stages.html) *to be baptized by John.*

***Matityahu (Matthew) 13:30*** *Let both grow together until the harvest. At that* [*time*](time.html) *I will tell the harvesters:* [*First*](one.html) *collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then* [*gather*](gather.html) *the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"*

The gospels are full of this [type](types.html) of imagery. The [wicked](wicked.html) will be burned up and the righteous will be refined. Lets look at some of them:

***Tehillim (***[***Psalms***](psalms1.html)***) 66:8-12*** *Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; He has preserved our lives and kept our* [*feet*](heel.html) *from slipping. For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver. You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. You let men ride over our heads; we went through* [*fire*](fire.html) *and water, but you brought us to a place of abundance.*

Notice that [HaShem](hashem.html) alludes to the flood behind us and the [fire](fire.html) in front of us. He also indicates that we will be refined like silver.

***II Tzefet (Peter) 3:9-13*** *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. But the* [*day of the Lord*](day.html) *will come like a thief. The* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives As you look forward to the day of God and speed its* [*coming*](coming.html)*. That day will bring about the destruction of the* [*heavens*](heaven.html) *by* [*fire*](fire.html)*, and the elements will melt in the heat. But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a* [*new*](new.html)[*heaven*](heaven.html) *and a* [*new*](new.html) *earth, the home of righteousness.*

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