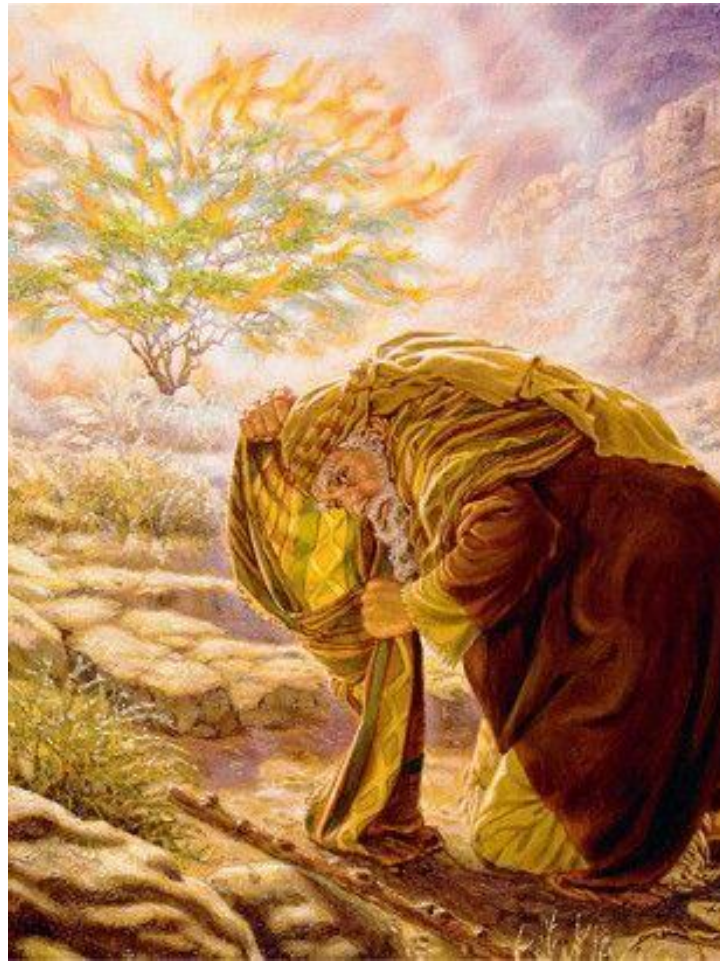




“And when forty years had passed, an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire in a bush, in the wilderness of Mount Sinai.” – Acts 7:30

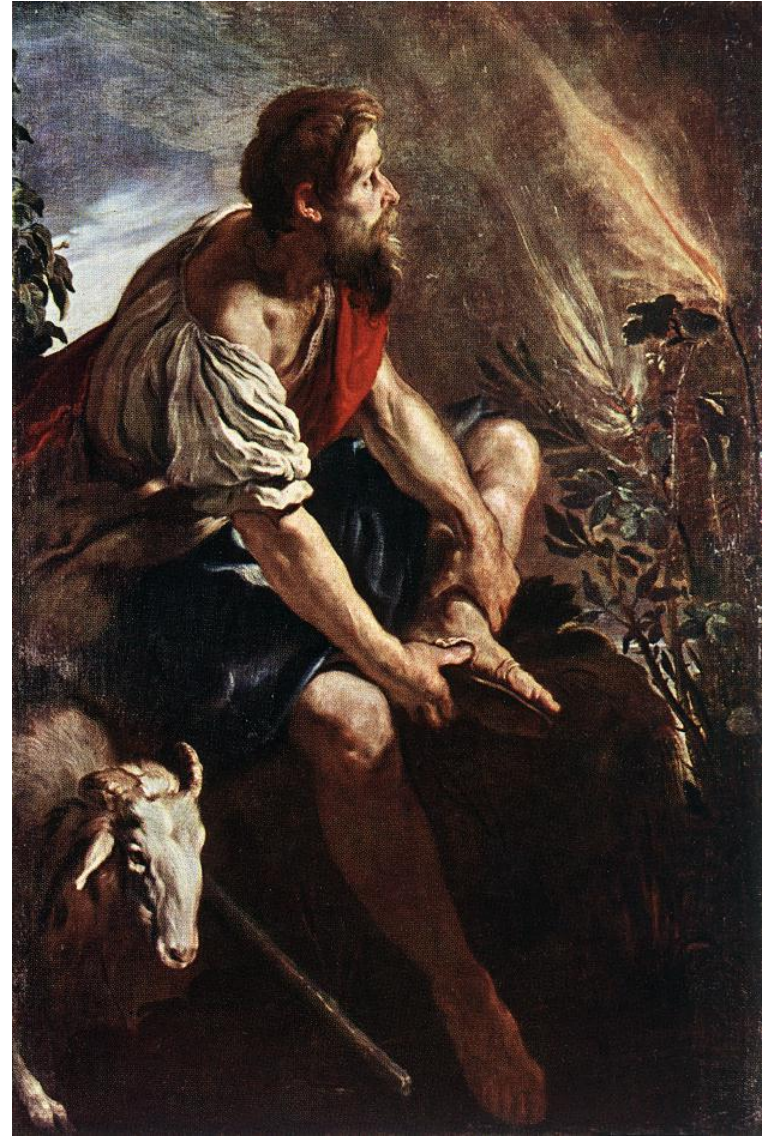
In the Midst of the Fire

“Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.”

(Matt. 24:9)

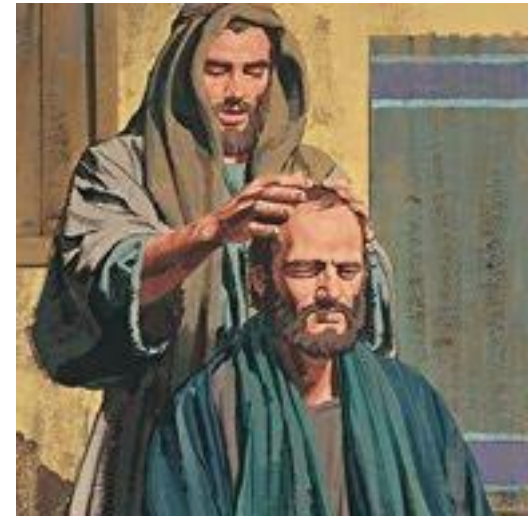
A Holy Place

- “Then the Lord said to him, ‘Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.’” (Acts 7:33)



A Holy Place

- St. Paul
- “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 **For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.**” (Acts 9:15-16)
- “So they departed from the presence of the council, **rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.**” (Acts 5:41)



A Place of Comfort

- “I have surely **seen** the oppression of My people who are in Egypt; I have heard their groaning...” (Acts 7:34)
 - See with eyes
 - See with mind
 - To become acquainted by experiences
 - To care for
- “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” (Matt. 2:13)

A Place of Comfort

- Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” (Jn. 10:31-32)
- His Passion
- “See” = to care for
 - “And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.” (Matt. 14:14)



A Place of Comfort

“In my distress I called upon the Lord, And cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.” (Ps. 18:6)

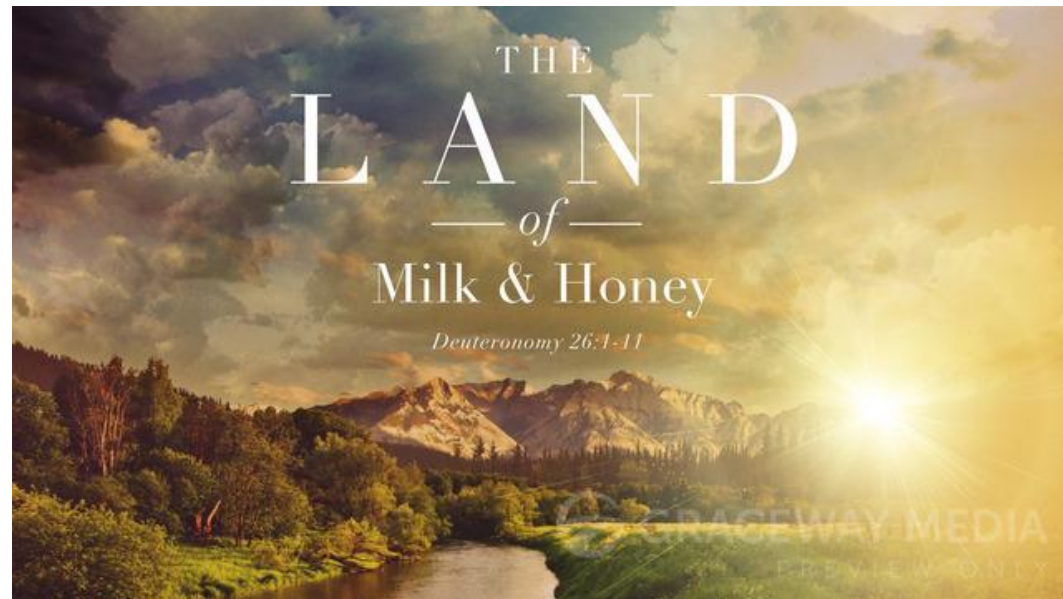
For I said in my haste, “I am cut off from before Your eyes”; Nevertheless You heard the voice of my supplications When I cried out to You. Oh, love the Lord, all you His saints! For the Lord preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.
(Ps. 31:22-23)

A Place of Deliverance

- “So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey...” (Ex. 3:8)
- “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”
(Lk. 1:32-33)

A Place of Deliverance

- *“Christ our Savior has come and has borne suffering, that through His passion He may save us.”* (Exposition Conclusion, Paschal Prayers)
- “...to a land flowing with milk and honey.” (Ex. 3:8)



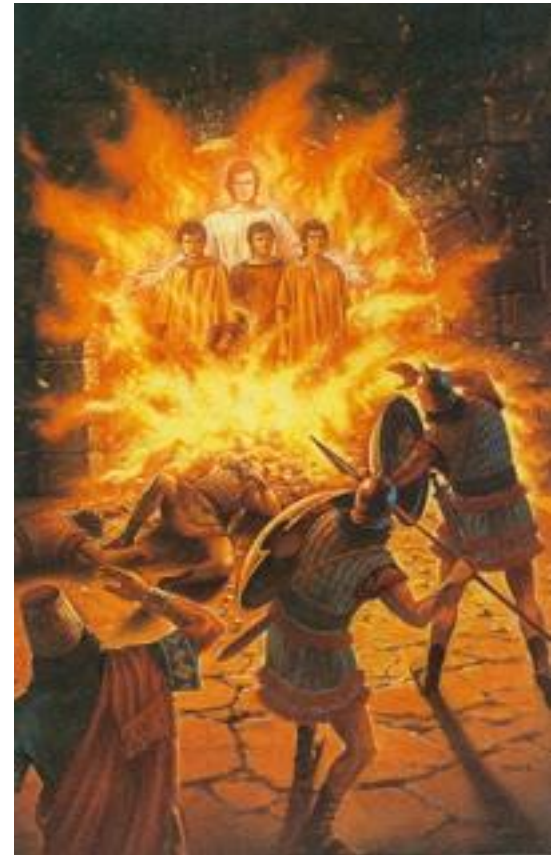
A Place of Deliverance

- “I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.” (Rev. 21:6)
- “In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.” (Rev. 22:2)



A Place of Communion

- “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:10)
- Consider the Three Holy Youth



A Place of Glory

- St. Stephen
- “But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, and said, ‘Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’” (Acts 7:55)



I See the Son of Man Standing on the Right Hand of God, by Walter Rane, courtesy Church History Museum

A Place of Glory

- “For You, O God, have tested us; You have refined us as silver is refined. You brought us into the net; You laid affliction on our backs. You have caused men to ride over our heads; We went through fire and through water; But You brought us out to rich fulfillment.” (Ps. 66:10-12)
- “Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.” (Is. 48:10-11)

Conclusion

- The midst of the fire is:
 1. A Holy Place
 2. A Place of Comfort
 3. A Place of deliverance
 4. A Place of Communion
 5. A Place of Glory