

Open Air Witness 4 – Autumn Leaves, Ordinary Lives and the Flaring Furnace

I'd like to start with a description of autumn, in particular autumn leaves. This is a good description of autumn leaves *and many ordinary lives*. What follows is true not just for autumn but all year round. It is written as a poem. This what it says in part.

Autumn

By Siegfried Sassoon www.poemhunter.com/poem/autumn-5/

*Their lives are like the leaves
Scattered in flocks of ruin, tossed and blown
Along the westering furnace flaring red.*

That poem has a lot of truth in it.

Autumn Leaves and Ordinary Lives

Take the first line. *Their lives are like the leaves*. Many ordinary lives are like autumn leaves. They may look good, just like autumn leaves look good in autumn colours. However good those autumn leaves look, though, they are dead and cut off from life. Many ordinary lives are the same, as the scripture says *“dead in trespasses and sins...having no hope, and without God in the world”* Ephesians 2:1, 12.

Scattered in Flocks of Ruin

That is why many ordinary lives could be described as *Scattered in flocks of ruin* like that poem says. The scripture says of many ordinary lives that:

“The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” Psalm 90:10, just like the autumn leaves *tossed and blown*.

“threescore years and ten” is 70 years. *“fourscore years”* is 80 years. It is interesting in the light of the scripture that today in the United Kingdom, the average life expectancy for men and women is approximately 80 years of age. See www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-21760905.

It's what happens next after those 80 years have elapsed that's important. It's happening now all over this nation and indeed all over the world even as I speak. Over one hundred people die every minute of every day. However, death is *not* the end. That poem gives a clue of what happens for many ordinary lives after death. I will read it again.

See www.medindia.net/patients/calculators/world-death-clock.asp.

*Their lives are like the leaves
Scattered in flocks of ruin, tossed and blown
Along the westering furnace flaring red.*

That poem mentions a *furnace flaring red*. You need to know about that *furnace flaring red*. The Lord Jesus Christ spoke about *the furnace flaring red*.

You need to know what the Lord Jesus Christ said about *the furnace flaring red* because that is the only way to make sure you don't go there.

The Furnace Flaring Red

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke about *the furnace flaring red* repeatedly while He was here on earth. Here is just one statement that the Lord Jesus Christ made about *the furnace flaring red*.

The Lord Jesus Christ is also speaking about Himself in this statement. He is ***“The Son of man”*** in this statement and this is what He said.

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth” Matthew 13:41-42.

You might ask who are ***“them which do iniquity”*** or wrong-doing? The answer of the scripture to that question is anyone who is not ***“righteous before God”*** Luke 1:6.

That is not good news because the scripture says for now that ***“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one”*** Romans 3:10.

That is not good news because it means that the Lord Jesus Christ would be right to cast *everyone* into that ***“furnace of fire” the furnace flaring red***. That is because ***“There is none righteous”*** because *all*, without exception, *all*, without distinction, ***“do iniquity”*** Matthew 13:42.

The scripture has better news, however, because the scripture says ***“we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation”*** Hebrews 6:9.

“Better Things...that Accompany Salvation”

What are these ***“better things...that accompany salvation”***?

First, concerning iniquity or wrong-doing that could put everyone in *the furnace flaring red* ***“a furnace of fire”*** the Lord Jesus Christ did no iniquity. The scripture says that the Lord Jesus Christ ***“did no sin”*** 1 Peter 2:22.

Second, the scripture says in fact that ***“the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”*** Isaiah 53:6.

That is, the Lord Jesus Christ let God to punish *Him* for ***“the iniquity of us all”*** because the scripture says that ***“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”*** 2 Corinthians 5:21.

This is because the scripture says that the Lord Jesus Christ is ***“Jesus Christ the righteous”*** 1 John 2:1.

Finally, therefore:

- because the Lord Jesus Christ took on Himself ***“the iniquity of us all”***
- because the Lord Jesus Christ was ***“made to be sin for us”***
- because the Lord Jesus Christ is ***“Jesus Christ the righteous”***

He can make you ***“the righteousness of God in him”*** so that you won't be cast into that ***“furnace of fire” the furnace flaring red***. Those are ***“better things...that accompany salvation.”*** That salvation can be yours, today! Make it yours, today!