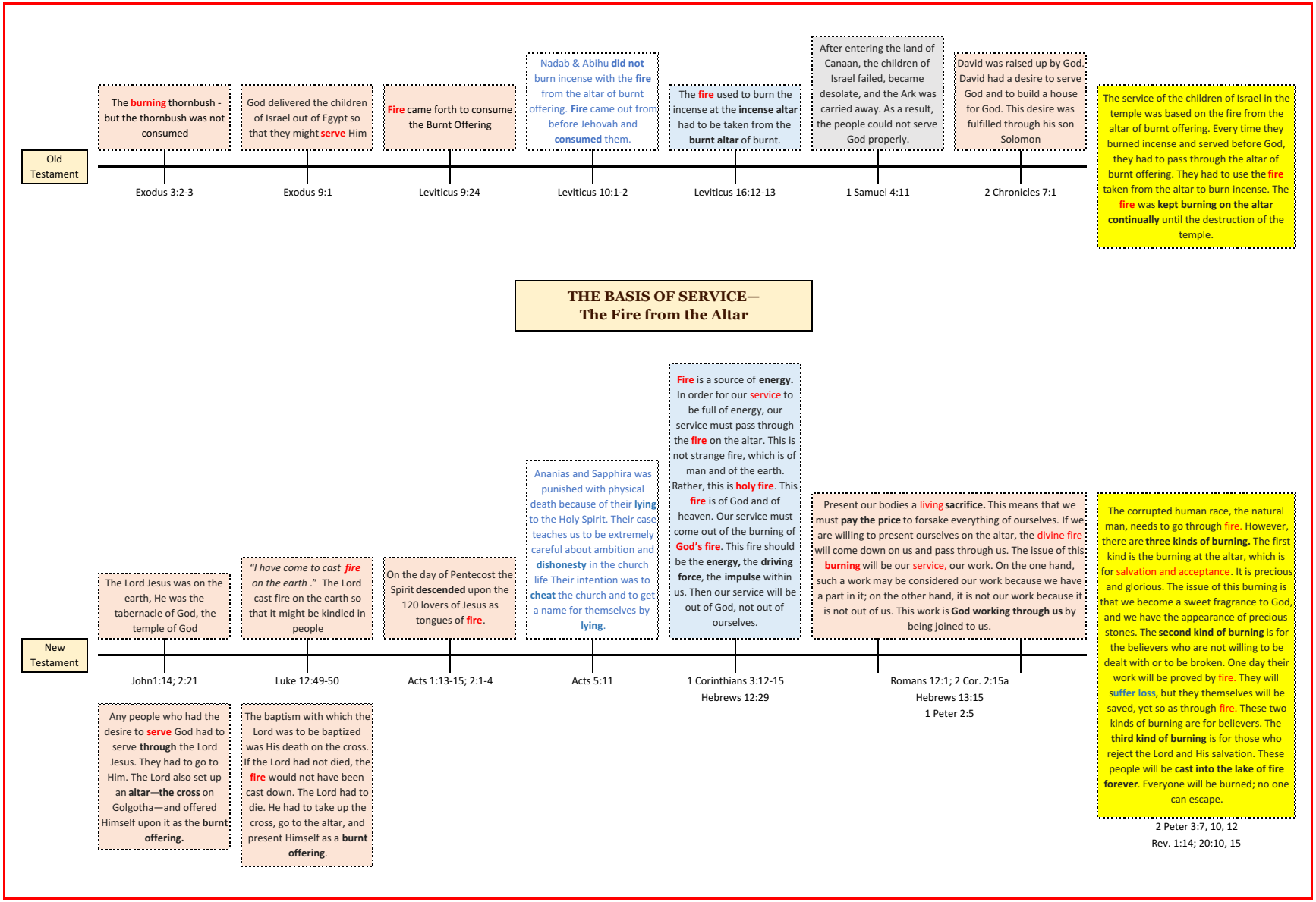
THE BASIS OF SERVICE—
The Fire from the Altar
Old Testament
The burning thornbush - but the thornbush was not consumed
Exodus 3:2-3
God delivered the children of Israel out of Egypt so that they might serve Him
Exodus 9:1
Fire came forth to consume the Burnt Offering
Leviticus 9:24
Nadab & Abihu did not burn incense with the fire from the altar of burnt offering. Fire came out from before Jehovah and consumed them.
Leviticus 10:1-2
The fire used to burn the incense at the incense altar had to be taken from the burnt altar of burnt.
Leviticus 16:12-13
After entering the land of Canaan, the children of Israel failed, became desolate, and the Ark was carried away. As a result, the people could not serve God properly.
1 Samuel 4:11
David was raised up by God. David had a desire to serve God and to build a house for God. This desire was fulfilled through his son Solomon
2 Chronicles 7:1
The service of the children of Israel in the temple was based on the fire from the altar of burnt offering. Every time they burned incense and served before God, they had to pass through the altar of burnt offering. They had to use the fire taken from the altar to burn incense. The fire was kept burning on the altar continually until the destruction of the temple.
New Testament
The Lord Jesus was on the earth, He was the tabernacle of God, the temple of God
John1:14; 2:21
"I have come to cast fire on the earth." The Lord cast fire on the earth so that it might be kindled in people
Luke 12:49-50
On the day of Pentecost the Spirit descended upon the 120 lovers of Jesus as tongues of fire.
Acts 1:13-15; 2:1-4
Ananias and Sapphira was punished with physical death because of their lying to the Holy Spirit. Their case teaches us to be extremely careful about ambition and dishonesty in the church life Their intention was to cheat the church and to get a name for themselves by lying.
Acts 5:11
Fire is a source of energy. In order for our service to be full of energy, our service must pass through the fire on the altar. This is not strange fire, which is of man and of the earth. Rather, this is holy fire. This fire is of God and of heaven. Our service must come out of the burning of God's fire. This fire should be the energy, the driving force, the impulse within us. Then our service will be out of God, not out of ourselves.
1 Corinthians 3:12-15
Hebrews 12:29
Present our bodies a living sacrifice. This means that we must pay the price to forsake everything of ourselves. If we are willing to present ourselves on the altar, the divine fire will come down on us and pass through us. The issue of this burning will be our service, our work. On the one hand, such a work may be considered our work because we have a part in it; on the other hand, it is not our work because it is not out of us. This work is God working through us by being joined to us.
Romans 12:1; 2 Cor. 2:15a
Hebrews 13:15
1 Peter 2:5
The corrupted human race, the natural man, needs to go through fire. However, there are three kinds of burning. The first kind is the burning at the altar, which is for salvation and acceptance. It is precious and glorious. The issue of this burning is that we become a sweet fragrance to God, and we have the appearance of precious stones. The second kind of burning is for the believers who are not willing to be dealt with or to be broken. One day their work will be proved by fire. They will suffer loss, but they themselves will be saved, yet so as through fire. These two kinds of burning are for believers. The third kind of burning is for those who reject the Lord and His salvation. These people will be cast into the lake of fire forever. Everyone will be burned; no one can escape.
2 Peter 3:7, 10, 12
Rev. 1:14; 20:10, 15
Any people who had the desire to serve God had to serve through the Lord Jesus. They had to go to Him. The Lord also set up an altar—the cross on Golgotha—and offered Himself upon it as the burnt offering.
The baptism with which the Lord was to be baptized was His death on the cross. If the Lord had not died, the fire would not have been cast down. The Lord had to die. He had to take up the cross, go to the altar, and present Himself as a burnt offering.