

Compilation and commentary by Stella Paterson
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New Testament study of the words “*brimstone*” and “*divine*”

When we see the close resemblance in the Greek words for *brimstone* and *divine*, it gives cause for pondering this passage which tells us *God is a consuming fire*: “Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe: for **our God is a consuming fire**. Let love of the brethren continue. Forget not to shew love unto strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” (Hebrews 12:28-29; 13:1-2) Unfortunately the chapter break interrupts the message which continues on into the first verses of chapter 13, where once again we see the word “*love*”.

According to Webster’s dictionary, *brimstone* is sulfur; it burns with a blue flame and its stifling odor stings the nostrils. For those being subjected to brimstone, their existence will be unbearable but there will be no relief.

The point of this study is not to have any conclusions drawn, but to simply present the word meanings and the passages in which they occur. Let us read them and consider them, asking the Lord to reveal His will for each of us as individuals. Only the Spirit of truth is able to reveal the will of the Father.

1. Greek #2303

theion (*thi'-on*)

Definition: “**Probably neuter of G2304 (in its original sense of *flashing*); *sulphur*”**

Translated: “brimstone”

2. Greek #2304

theios (*thi'-os*)

Definition: “***godlike* (neuter as noun, *divinity*)”**

Translated: “divine, godhead”

3. Greek #2305

theiotēs (*thi-ot'-ace*)

Definition: “**From G2304; divinity (abstractly)**”

Translated: “godhead”

4. Greek #2306

theiōdēs (*thi-o'-dace*)

Definition: “**From G2303 and G1491; sulphur like, that is, sulphurous**”

Translated: “brimstone”

1. Greek #2303

theion (*thi'-on*)

Definition: “**Probably neuter of G2304 (in its original sense of *flashing*); sulphur**”

Translated: “brimstone”

Luke 17:(28&) 29 (&30): “*Likewise even as it came to pass in the days of Lot; they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but in the day that Lot went out from Sodom it rained fire and **brimstone** from heaven, and destroyed them all: after the same manner shall it be in the day that the Son of man is revealed.*”

Revelation 9:17-18: “*And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates as of fire and of hyacinth and of brimstone [Greek #2306]: and the heads of the horses are as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceedeth fire and smoke and **brimstone**. By these three plagues was the third part of men killed, by the fire and the smoke and the **brimstone**, which proceeded out of their mouths.*”

Revelation 14:(9&) 10 (&11): “*And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a great voice, If any man worshippeth the beast and his image, and receiveth a mark on his forehead, or upon his hand, he also shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is prepared unmixed in the cup of his anger; and he shall be tormented with fire and*

brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: and the smoke of their torment goeth up for ever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, they that worship the beast and his image, and whoso receiveth the mark of his name.”

Revelation 19:20 (&21): “And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought the signs in his sight, wherewith he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image: they twain were cast alive into the lake of fire that burneth with **brimstone**: and the rest were killed with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, even the sword which came forth out of his mouth: and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”

Revelation 20:10: “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and **brimstone**, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

Revelation 21:8: “But for the fearful, and unbelieving, and abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, their part shall be in the lake that burneth with fire and **brimstone**; which is the second death.”

2. Greek #2304

theios (*thi'-os*)

Definition: “**godlike (neuter as noun, divinity)**”

Translated: “divine, godhead”

- “divine”

2 Peter 1:(2&) 3-4: “Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that his **divine** power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these ye may become partakers of the **divine** nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust.”

- “godhead”

Acts 17:29: “Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the **Godhead** is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man.”

3. Greek #2305

theiotēs (*thi-ot'-ace*)

Definition: “**From G2304; divinity (abstractly)**”

Translated: “godhead”

- The word “*godhead*” was used in the KJV while the RV used “*divinity*.”

Romans 1:20 (&21): “*For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and **divinity**; that they may be without excuse: because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened.*”

4. Greek #2306

theiōdēs (*thi-o'-dace*)

Definition: “**From G2303 and G1491; sulphur like, that is, sulphurous**”

Translated: “brimstone”

- “*brimstone*”

Revelation 9:17: “*And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates as of fire and of hyacinth and of **brimstone**: and the heads of the horses are as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths proceedeth fire and smoke and brimstone [Greek #2303].*”