

Difficult to Interpret

"They came to Capernaum,
and when he was in the house,

"If your hand causes you
to sin, cut it off.

...for everyone will be salted
with fire.

"Whoever gives you
a cup of water to drink



DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET

Mark 9:33-50

How to interpret and make cohesive a
difficult and seemingly disjointed passage

²⁴“And they shall go forth and look upon the corpses of the men who have transgressed against Me **[at my second coming]**. For their **worm** does not die, and their **fire is not quenched**. They shall be an abhorrence to all **flesh**.”

Dried Up Worm on the concrete soon after a rain



⁴¹The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend **[stumble]**, and those who practice lawlessness,⁴² and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

LAKE OF FIRE

OUTER DARKNESS

FURNACE OF FIRE

EVERLASTING FIRE

**BLACKNESS OF
DARKNESS**

³¹For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged **[by others or God]**.

²³Search me, O God, and know my heart;
try me, **[test with melting fire]**, and know
my anxieties; **[or my disquieting thoughts]**
²⁴And see if there is any wicked way **[or**
dross] in me, and lead me in the way
everlasting.

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy **[separated to and]**, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

²And do not **[or stop]** *being* conformed to this world, but be **[continuously]** transformed by the renewing of your mind, that **you may prove [or test with fire]** what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

¹³each one **[the believer's]** work will become clear **[or transparent]**; for the Day **[of our judgment]** will declare it, because it will be revealed by **fire**; and the **fire** will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he **[or she]** will receive a reward. ¹⁵If anyone's work is burned, he **[or she]** will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

²⁰Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature.