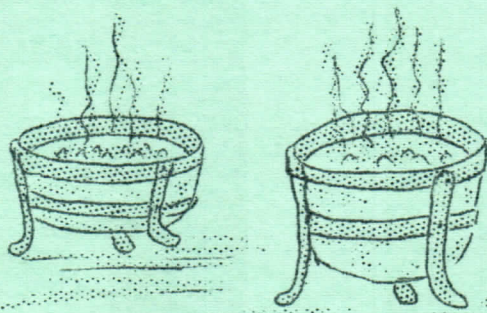Most of the time a home in Israel was kept warm by the hot sun. But when it was very cold or rainy a fire might be needed.

A home would at least have a hole cut in the floor lined with stones. The fire could be kept burning here. This fire was used for cooking. Sometimes this fire was needed only for heat. Then when the fire had burned down to red coals, a board was placed over the stove. A carpet was laid on top. This helped to keep the house warm for a long time.

Some homes had another kind of stove called a brazier. Usually round metal rings were fastened to legs. A bronze or pottery bowl, set in the rings, held the charcoal fire. If you were cold you came close to this fire to warm yourself.

If was cool on the night that Jesus was arrested. He was led away to be tried at the home of the high priest. A fire was burning in the center of the hall. The servants were warming themselves by the fire. Peter went to warm himself there too. One of the maids saw him and said -

This man was with Jesus

That was when Peter said -

Woman, I do not know Him.
(See Luke 22:55-62)

There is another time in the Bible when we read about a King who sat by a fire to warm himself. This fire was probably in a brazier. The king was Jehoiakim. God told Jeremiah to write His words about Israel. God gave the words. Jeremiah spoke them. Baruch wrote the words on a scroll. Then Baruch read the words in front of the people. Jeremiah could not get out to read them. He was in prison. Finally, King Jehoiakim heard about this. He commanded -

> Bring that scroll to me!
> Read it!

When part of the scroll was read, the king took his penknife and cut the words out of the scroll. The king held it in the fire until it was burned. But God gave the words to Jeremiah again and Jeremiah wrote them once more. (See Jeremiah 36:22-23)

This is one of the happenings in the Bible that help us to know that God's Word cannot be destroyed. Other men have tried to do this but the Bible is still read and loved.