

Doing Your Own Thing

Leviticus Chapter 10

Lev 10:1 **1) Strange Fire** vs 1-11

Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

- The important words in this verse are the last ones. "Which He had not commanded them." Throughout the last two chapters we had seen quite a number of times where it said "as He had commanded" or "they did as He had commanded them." WHAT A CONTRAST TO THE OBEDIENCE OF THE LAST FEW CHAPTERS.
- The timing on this could be viewed a couple of ways. One is that it could have happened immediately upon the fire of the Lord coming out and devouring the offering at the end of chapter 9. Or Two, it could be that some time had passed between verse 9:24 and 10:1.
- These 2 sons of Aaron have witnessed God and His Glory.
 - The Plagues of Egypt.
 - The Miraculous Deliverance
 - The Presence of God at Mount Sinai (fire, smoke, thunder and earthquake)
 - They went up on the mountain with Moses, Aaron and the seventy elders (Exodus 24)
 - They Saw God (Exodus 24:9-10)

Fantastic experiences with God do not insure righteousness, Only a continual relationship with God that is grounded in His Word.

- WHAT WAS THE STRANGE FIRE?
 - Impure Motives? Pride, Ambition, Impatience, Jealousy
 - Misuse of Holy Incense? Exodus 30:34-38 told us this was Most Holy and not for personal use.
 - Man's Effort in Atonement? NKJV uses the word "profane fire" the NIV uses "unauthorized" this fire may have been their attempt at their idea of how to approach God and atone for their sin.
 - Holy Fire vs. Common Fire? Possibly Nadab and Abihu could not distinguish between the holy and common and believed fire was fire. Did they make their own fire?
 - Trespassing? Possibly "before the Lord" they thought their consecration gave them a greater license than they had and they entered the "holy of Holies"
 - Possibly Drunkenness? Verse 9 "Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die--it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations--"

Possibly, God allows this to be vague so that we realize that all these are strange fire.

Also, the people gathered around watching may not have been able to perceive or maybe not be privy to what was done wrong. They just see judgment. Some times as we serve only within our own heart do we know what was wrong.

Lev 10:2 **And fire came out from the presence of the LORD and consumed them, and they died before the LORD.**

- This is the result of offering strange, unauthorized or profane fire to the Lord. DEATH!
- The word consumed is the same word used in **chapter 9:24** when the fire came and consumed the offering.
- Again, WHAT A CONTRAST! We want God to burn up the sacrifice not us.
- "before the Lord" - this could be again in the Holy of Holies
- **1 Corinthians 3:13-15** "Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."
- **At beginnings God Judges instantly to establish the standard.**
 - Genesis 4 - Cain and Able
 - Joshua 7 - Achan's Idol As they enter Promised Land
 - 2 Samuel 6 - David Bringing up the Ark to Jerusalem
 - Acts 5 - The beginning of the Church Ananias & Sapphira

- Lev 10:3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the LORD spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me **I will be treated as holy**, And before all the people **I will be honored**.'" So Aaron, therefore, kept silent.
- In the service of the Lord two things are unchangeable
 - **God will be treated as Holy** = we approach Him as He requires us to approach Him. He is not common. We can come "just as we are" but His way; His way is through Jesus.
 - **God will be Honored** = All glory is His. The focus in our service is God not our talent, ability, cleverness, or insight. All we do must glorify God.
 - **Aaron kept silent.** His two sons just died. You know he had feelings overwhelming inside. But before a holy and righteous and just God, there was nothing to say.
 - Some people think they will be able to justify themselves before God. I've heard people say they will give God a piece of their mind. I believe they have no clue. When they see Him as He is they will stand silent, and in fact they will bow their knee. (Isaiah 45:23/Romans 14:11)
- Lev 10:4 Moses called also to Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, "Come forward, carry your relatives away from the front of the sanctuary to the outside of the camp."
- Lev 10:5 So they came forward and carried them still in their tunics to the outside of the camp, as Moses had said.
- Moses didn't have the priests who were consecrated carry the bodies out but called family to come in and carry the bodies out.
- Lev 10:6 Then Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, so that you will not **die** and that He will not become wrathful against all the congregation. But your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, shall bewail the burning which the LORD has brought about.
- Moses is instructing Aaron and his other sons not to mourn. It would demonstrate their disapproval of God's judgment if they mourn. The congregation should not see the priests disapproving or grieving over God's righteous judgment.
 - Younger sons and daughters can learn from the mistakes of older siblings.
- Lev 10:7 "You shall not even go out from the doorway of the tent of meeting, or you will **die**; for the LORD'S anointing oil is upon you." So they did according to the word of Moses.
- Cannot go out to see a burial. Death would be the penalty.
 - Hadn't Aaron done much worse with the golden calf? Yes, but at that time he was not consecrated as priest. Now he is.
- Lev 10:8 The LORD then spoke to Aaron, saying,
- Lev 10:9 "Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not **die**--it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations--
- Lev 10:10 and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean,
- Lev 10:11 and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them through Moses."
- Verse 8 something different happens. The Lord speaks to Aaron. (Only time in Leviticus) It must be important.
 - Possibly, here he speaks to him because he is a father who lost his sons. God knows what it means to lose a son.
 - It is about 2 issues:
 - Drinking alcohol while serving the Lord.
 - Drinking alcohol will impair discernment between holy and profane
 - Proverbs 20:1 "Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."
 - Proverbs 31:4 "[it is] not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:"
 - Ezekiel 44:21 in the millennial reign "Neither shall any priest drink wine, when they enter into the inner court."
 - Ephesians 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"

Lev 10:12 **2) Moses Confirms Priest's Portions** vs 12-20

Then Moses spoke to Aaron, and to his surviving sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, "Take the grain offering that is left over from the LORD'S offerings by fire and eat it unleavened beside the altar, for it is most holy.

Lev 10:13 "You shall eat it, moreover, in a holy place, because it is your due and your sons' due out of the LORD'S offerings by fire; for thus I have been commanded.

- The extra grain in the grain offering is the priests. But they cannot take it home. It must be eaten by the altar. Because it is holy.

Lev 10:14 "The breast of the wave offering, however, and the thigh of the offering you may eat in a clean place, you and your sons and your daughters with you; for they have been given as your due and your sons' due out of the sacrifices of the peace offerings of the sons of Israel.

Lev 10:15 "The thigh offered by lifting up and the breast offered by waving they shall bring along with the offerings by fire of the portions of fat, to present as a wave offering before the LORD; so it shall be a thing perpetually due you and your sons with you, just as the LORD has commanded."

- The wave offering is also the priests other than the fat and can be taken home and shared with the priest's family. But it must be eaten in a clean place.

Lev 10:16 But Moses searched carefully for the goat of the sin offering, and behold, it had been burned up! So he was angry with Aaron's surviving sons Eleazar and Ithamar, saying,

Lev 10:17 "Why did you not eat the sin offering at the holy place? For it is most holy, and He gave it to you to bear away the guilt of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD.

Lev 10:18 "Behold, since its blood had not been brought inside, into the sanctuary, you should certainly have eaten it in the sanctuary, just as I commanded."

- Leviticus 6:26 was instructions to the priests for the sin offering. The priest who offers the sacrifice should eat it.
- In this instance Moses scolded Eleazar and Ithamar for not eating the offering.
- This would be a point of identification that would demonstrate that the priest is in communion with the sin offering. That he is no better than the sinner.

Lev 10:19 But Aaron spoke to Moses, "Behold, this very day they presented their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD. When things like these happened to me, if I had eaten a sin offering today, would it have been good in the sight of the LORD?"

Lev 10:20 When Moses heard {that,} it seemed good in his sight.

- Aaron answered for his sons saying that due to the weight of the day's events and that they could not grieve that they fasted instead.
- Aaron possibly had no appetite due to the loss of his sons. He pleads with Moses saying he would have been just going through the motions. It wouldn't have been heartfelt if he had eaten.
- This seemed good to Moses.

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