

Leviticus 10:1-20 **Sin of Nadab and Abihu**

Profane Fire

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them.

² So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the LORD spoke, saying:

'By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.' "

So Aaron held his peace.

⁴ And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, "Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp." ⁵ So they went near and carried them by their tunics out of the camp, as Moses had said.

⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, "Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD has kindled. ⁷ You shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die, for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you." And they did according to the word of Moses.

Wine and intoxicating drink and the Priesthood

⁸ Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying: ⁹ "Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations, ¹⁰ that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, ¹¹ and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD has spoken to them by the hand of Moses."

Eating the priests portion of the Grain Offering, the Wave Offering, and the Heave Offering

¹² Then Moses spoke to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons who were left: "Take the grain offering that remains of the offerings made by fire to the LORD, and eat it without leaven beside the altar; for it is most holy. ¹³ You shall eat it in a holy place, because it is your due and your sons' due, of the sacrifices made by fire to the LORD; for so I have been commanded. ¹⁴ The breast of the wave offering and the thigh of the heave offering you shall eat in a clean place, you, your sons, and your daughters with you; for they are your due and your sons' due, which are given from the sacrifices of peace offerings of the children of Israel. ¹⁵ The thigh of the heave offering and the breast of the wave offering they shall bring with the offerings of fat made by fire, to offer as a wave offering before the LORD. And it shall be yours and your sons' with you, by a statute forever, as the LORD has commanded."

Missing parts of the Sin Offering

¹⁶ Then Moses made careful inquiry about the goat of the sin offering, and there it was--burned up. And he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron who were left, saying, ¹⁷ "Why have you not eaten the sin offering in a holy place, since it is most holy, and God has given it to you to bear the guilt of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD? ¹⁸ See! Its blood was not brought inside the holy place; indeed you should have eaten it in a holy place, as I commanded." ¹⁹ And Aaron said to Moses, "Look, this day they have offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD, and such things have befallen me! If I had eaten the sin

offering today, would it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD?" 20 So when Moses heard that, he was content. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Profane Fire

- ✧ The fire that Nadab and Abihu used was taken from camp, whereas God commanded the fire for the altar of Incense to be taken from the Altar of Sacrifice. [Leviticus 16:12]
- ✧ It is interesting to realize that it was Nadab and Abihu who had been with the company who saw the God of Israel on the mountain and under His feet was a pavement of sapphire. [Exodus 24:9-11]
- ✧ Apparently the invitation to see God had given them an exalted self image that prompted them to act irreverently in regard to burning Incense thinking that they were special and privileged people in the sight of God.
- ✧ We can see by the words God said to Moses after He cremated Nadab and Abihu, that God reads the heart, and God knew that they did not act in reverence toward holy things. God said: '**By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.**' [Leviticus 10:3]
- ✧ Moses called on the Levites who were related to Aaron to come and remove the bodies of Nadab and Abihu because the Priests may not come near a dead body which would defile them. [Leviticus 5:1-3, 7:19-21, 21:10-12]
- ✧ Moses warned the **Priests** not to uncover their heads or tear their cloths, lest they die. For the priest to defile himself by such expressions warranted the death penalty and would bring the wrath of God upon all the people. So the mourning for the dead was left up to the people.
- ✧ With the anointing of Yehowah upon the Priests, they may not depart from the door of the Tabernacle of Meeting, lest they die.

Wine or intoxicating drink and the Priesthood

- ✧ Yehowah spoke directly to Aaron with instructions for the Priests not to drink wine or intoxicating drink when they go into the **Tabernacle of Meeting**.
 - ◇ This command also carries the death penalty for its violation.
 - ◇ This is also a statute forever throughout their generations.
 - ◇ Its purpose is to teach the Children of Israel to distinguish (discern) between holy and unholy, clean and unclean, and so that they may teach the Children of Israel all the statutes of Yehowah given by the hand of Moses.

Eating the priests portion of the Grain Offering, the Wave Offering, and the Heave Offering

- ✧ Moses instructed Aaron and his sons the Priests to eat their portion of the Grain Offering, the Wave Offering, and the Heave Offering in a clean place. [Leviticus 6:14-18, 7:28-34]
 - ◇ It is for Aaron and his sons and daughters as their due from the Peace Offerings of the Children of Israel.
 - ◇ This also is a statute forever throughout their generations.

Missing parts of the Sin Offering

- ✧ Moses inquired about the goat of the Sin Offering, and it was burned up.
- ✧ Moses was angry because it was not eaten in a holy place as commanded, it being most holy, and given to them by God to bear the guilt of the congregation, to make atonement for them. Its blood was not brought inside the holy place [Leviticus 4:27-35, 6:24-30]

- ✧ Aaron gave his reason because of the death of Nadab and Abihu, he felt that had he eaten it when they had died after bringing their own Sin Offering, it would not be accepted by God.
- ✧ Moses accepted his answer.