

MESSAGE 6-28-20
THE STRANGE FIRE OFFERED BY NADAB AND ABIHU

Leviticus 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

Leviticus 10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Leviticus 10:3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

Leviticus 10:4 And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.

Leviticus 10:5 So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said.

Leviticus 10:6 And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

Leviticus 10:7 And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses.

THE STRANGE FIRE OF NADAB AND ABIHU

Intro: We had just read in Leviticus 9:24 how the Lord had just sent a fire from his presence and consumed the offerings that Aaron had placed on the brazen altar in the middle of the court. Then in Chapter 10 we read how Nadab and Abihu take their golden censers and offer strange fire to the Lord. The Lord was displeased with them and immediately sent another fire from His presence and consumed them.

I want to veer a little from our regular studies in the book of Leviticus and talk about this strange fire that Aaron's son offered up before the Lord.

- I. THIS WAS A STRANGE FIRE BECAUSE IT WAS PROFANE OR COMMON.**
- II. THIS WAS A STRANGE FIRE THAT GOD COMMANDED THEM NOT TO OFFER.**
- III. THIS STRANGE FIRE BROUGHT GOD'S JUDGMENT ON NADAB AND ABIHU. Notice Aaron was commanded not to mourn for his sons.**

IV. GOD DEALT HARSHLY WITH NADAB AND ABUHU BECAUSE OF THE BAD PICTURE THAT THEY PRESENTED IN THIS STRANGE FIRE.

I. THIS WAS A STRANGE FIRE BECAUSE IT WAS PROFANE OR COMMON.

1. NOTE THE MEANING OF THE WORD "STRANGE ".

zuwr, zoor; a prim. root; to turn aside (espec. for lodging); hence to be a foreigner, strange, profane; spec. (act. part.) to commit adultery:- (come from) another (man, place), fanner, go away, (e-) strange (-r, thing, woman).

The Hebrew word translated "strange" means "unauthorized, foreign, or profane." God not only rejected their sacrifice; He found it so offensive that He consumed the two men with fire.

The Bible calls an adulterous woman a strange woman. A man's wife is not called a strange woman because she is the woman alone he should be close to and know. Other women, not his legal wife are called strange, off limits, forbidden. So a "Strange Woman"

The fire that Nadab and Abihu offered was strange, it was forbidden, off limits.

This says a lot for people who are always looking for new ways to worship and alternate ways to come to God.

Here we see the same old exhibition of man's self will and sinful nature.

Cain offered a strange sacrifice.
Adam ate from that strange forbidden tree.

2. THE FIRE ITSELF WAS FROM THE WRONG SOURCE AND THEREFORE STRANGE.

The Lord had a prescribed source for getting this fire. It was to be taken off of the altar and nowhere else. Nadab and Abihu probably grabbed any old fire from another source that was convenient. So the fire was from the wrong source.

Adam Clarke

In the preceding chapter we have seen how God intended that every part of His service should be conducted; and that every sacrifice might be acceptable to Him, He sent his own fire as the emblem of His presence, and the means of consuming the sacrifice - Here we find Aaron's sons neglecting the Divine ordinance, and offering incense with strange, that is, common fire, - fire not of a celestial origin; and therefore the fire of God consumed them. So that very fire which, if properly

applied, would have sanctified and consumed their gift, became now the very instrument of their destruction! How true is the saying, The Lord is a consuming fire! He will either hallow or destroy us: He will purify our souls by the influence of His Spirit, or consume them with the breath of His mouth! The tree which is properly planted in a good soil is nourished by the genial influences of the sun: pluck it up from its roots, and the sun which was the cause of its vegetative life and perfection now dries up its juices, decomposes its parts, and causes it to moulder into dust. Thus must it be done to those who grieve and do despite to the Spirit of God. Reader, hast thou this heavenly fire? Hear then the voice of God, Quench not the Spirit.

Which He commanded them not - Every part of the religion of God is Divine. He alone knew what he designed by its rites and ceremonies, for that which they prefigured - the whole economy of redemption by Christ - was conceived in His own mind, and was out of the reach of human wisdom and conjecture. He therefore who altered any part of this representative system, who omitted or added any thing, assumed a prerogative which belonged to God alone, and was certainly guilty of a very high offense against the wisdom, justice, and righteousness of his Maker. This appears to have been the sin of Nadab and Abihu, and this at once shows the reason why they were so severely punished. The most awful judgments are threatened against those who either add to, or take away from, the declarations of God. See Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:6; and Revelation 22:18, Revelation 22:19.

Maybe in the eyes if Nabad and Abihu it made no difference where they got the fire for the incense. However, in the plan of God it was very important.

Leviticus 16:12 And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil:

Leviticus 16:13 And he shall put the incense upon the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of the incense may cover the mercy seat that is upon the testimony, that he die not:

The altar of incense pictures the prayers of God's people, and the reason our prayers can come into the presence of God is because of the sacrifice of Christ and His death on the cross, this was the true altar of sacrifice. These pictures were very important to God.

Even like Moses when he struck the rock instead of speaking to the Rock in the wilderness, Christ was smitten once for sins, now we only need to speak to Him and ask for living waters. He does not need to be struck or crucified anew for sins.

All the sacrifices were prophetic in nature and Nadab and Abihu when they offered strange fire they were breaking the spiritual pictures God had in mind. They may not

have known the significance of these spiritual pictures but ignorance is no excuse. There are many things we do not understand but it is our duty to obey our Lord by faith.

This is why Moses was rebuked for striking the Rock instead of speaking to it, the Lord said, you failed to believe me, to sanctify me in the eyes of the people.

By faith we need to obey the Lord even if we do not completely understand why.

II. THIS WAS A STRANGE FIRE THAT GOD COMMANDED THEM NOT TO OFFER.

1. IT WAS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO CAREFULLY DO ALL THAT WAS COMMANDED.

The Lord gave many many warnings to the priests to be careful they did exactly what He said to do in offering the offerings and doing His service.

Exodus 19:21 don't touch the mount lest ye die.

Exodus 28:35 He gave the bells on his garments ...that he die not.

Exodus 30:20 They were to wash at the laver.. that they die not;

Exodus 30:21 .. that they die not.

Lev. 8:35 tarry 7 days at the door of the tabernacle that they die not.

Lev. 10:6 Don't mourn ... lest ye die.

How many times did the Lord warn Aaron about the seriousness of what he was doing and the danger of death for violating his commands?

So when this happened to Nadab and Abihu Moses says to Aaron;

Leviticus 10:3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

The warning was given many times to make sure that they did all that the Lord commanded the way He commanded lest they die.

Ignorance was no excuse for Nadab and Abihu. Just like it was no excuse for King David when he let Uzzah who was not a Levite transport the ark and touch it. We are responsible as ministers of God to study to show ourselves approved unto God.

II Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all

that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

I Timothy 4:15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

I can only wonder how many things are being done in the Lord's church today that displease Him because we are not making diligent search in His Word to seek His mind and will in all matters.

2. WHY DID THEY DO WHAT WAS NOT COMMANDED IN THIS MATTER?

Some conjecture, maybe they were drinking and their sense were numbed. Right after this incident Moses gives instruction about the priest being forbidden to drink strong drink obviously lest they die in the service of the Lord.

Leviticus 10:9 Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations:

Others conjecture because of the excitement of the people when they saw the fire consume the sacrifice they got caught up in the excitement of the crowd and thought to capitalize on the moment.

Leviticus 10:4 And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, **carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.**

Albert Barnes'

Censer - See Exodus 25:38 note.

Strange fire - The point of their offence is evidently expressed in this term. This may very probably mean that the incense was lighted at an unauthorized time. And we may reasonably unite with this the supposition that they were intoxicated (compare Leviticus 10:9), as well as another conjecture, that they made their offering of incense an accompaniment to the exultation of the people on the manifestation of the glory of the Lord **Leviticus 9:24. As they perished not within the tabernacle, but in front of it, it seems likely that they may have been making an ostentatious and irreverent display of their ministrations to accompany the shouts of the people on their way toward the tabernacle.** The offence for which they were immediately visited with outward punishment was thus a flagrant outrage on the solemn order of the divine service, while the cause of their offence may have been their guilty excess.

If they were caught up in the excitement of the moment, this reminds me of the admonition, that an elder needs to be careful especially young ones.

I Timothy 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Pride, the excitement of crowds, the seeking of vain glory and show has been the ruination of many a minister of God. Whether in the excitement of great crowd or in the ministry of one or two it is the responsibility of ministers of God to do what they do as unto the Lord and not to impress men.

Saul gave the excuse for his disobedience:

I Samuel 15:21 **But the people** took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

I Samuel 15:22 And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

I Samuel 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Notice he said but the people, he made his sacrifice a show for the people. What we do we need to do as unto the Lord and not to impress the people.

Nadab and Abihu being caught up in the excitement of the moment want to embellish on the glory of the moment.

There are times that God makes a great show of His power when He brought down fire from heaven to consume the offering of Elijah, but there were other times where Elijah found himself in a lone cave with no one else but him and God. He is the same God and we need to listen to the still small voice in our consciences as well as mighty thunderings and manifestations of His power in public meetings. This takes maturity that these two young men lacked and it cost them their lives in this case. God made an example of them so future generations could learn this lesson. It is sad that churches are today catering to the same sin and it is the younger generation that is perpetuating this sin. We are trying to conjure up a strange fire of revival and our Nadab's and Abihu's are the ones running out in front of the crowds leading it. The older generation is just happy that these young people are fired up for God and just stand by saying it is their thing. Let them do their thing.

This attitude has bred a generation of brats who are now the same people rioting in our streets. One excess leads to another.

III. THIS STRANGE FIRE BROUGHT GOD'S JUDGMENT ON NADAB AND ABIHU **Notice Aaron was commanded not to mourn for his sons.**

Leviticus 10:6 And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

They were before the sanctuary, not in the sanctuary.

Some would question why was God so severe on this mistake of Nadab and Abihu.

Remember he slew Uzzah for touching the ark.
He slew Ananias and Sapphira for their lie.
He slew Balaam for his advice he gave to Balak.

It is amazing how so many have lost all fear of God. Men blaspheme His holy name, they neglect to show Him the reverence due His name.

Again, He had given severe warnings time and time again about the danger of death for not doing the priestly service exactly as He prescribed.

Our God is a consuming fire.

Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Hebrews 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.

So many people are more lackadaisical in the Church age using the argument that we are not under the law but under grace. Yet Hebrews 12:25 is clear that we have a greater responsibility to reverence Him in the New Covenant!

Hebrews 12:25 See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Later Moses would confront Aaron for neglecting to eat his portion of the offering as commanded. Instead he burnt it. When asked why he violated this command he said,

Leviticus 10:19 And Aaron said unto Moses, Behold, this day have they offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD; and such things have befallen me: and if I had eaten the sin offering to day, should it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD?

Aaron said, if I ate the offering would it be accepted? In other words he could outwardly not mourn over his sons, but inwardly he was mourning and he did not feel that he could legitimately eat the offering and present it before the Lord.

This reminded me of what the Lord says about making sure our hearts are right when we are partakers of communion. We need to examine ourselves and then partake. Aaron examined himself and knew his heart was not right.

IV. GOD DEALT HARSHLY WITH NADAB AND ABUHU BECAUSE OF THE BAD PICTURE THAT THEY PRESENTED IN THIS STRANGE FIRE. Their sin lives on.

Moses clearly shared why God was so hard on the sin of these young men:

Leviticus 10:3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

I will be sanctified.

This was the reason Moses was punished for striking the rock rather than speaking to it. It says,

Numbers 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

Moses failed to realize that he was to represent the Lord, and there was a reason for why He gave the commandment to speak to the rock rather than strike the Rock. So it is today, we think some of the commands in the Bible trivial and not important.

First it was not important that whether our ministers be male or female. So we have women being ordained in spite of the clear command,

I Timothy 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

So, many main line denominations ordained women, but one strange fire leads to another, and today many churches are ordaining homosexuals. There is a strange fire burning throughout the land.

Today there is a desire by many young ministers to please the people, to run out in front of the crowds and stir them up. To wave their censors, turning a show of religion into some sort of entertainment.

The Lord knowing the future apostasy dealt severely with it at its inception.

This is why He was careful not to show inordinate reverence for his mother. He called her woman. Which of us ever referred to our mothers as woman. This was because He knew someday, many would worship her and attribute to her the work of His atonement.

This is why He commanded Moses to slay Balaam, because someday He knew the doctrine of Balaam would permeate his church through out the ages.

He immediately judged the sin of Ananias and Sapphira, knowing hypocrisy would spread someday in His church as men would try to make a public show of religion to impress others.

1. WHY IS IT THAT THIS STRANGE FIRE ALWAYS SEEMS TO ORIGINATE WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION?

It was Aaron's sons who offered the strange fire.

For some reason it is the younger generation that is always seeking to do something differently, to seek at a new way to worship. There is a tendency to question the old ways of doing things.

So many will question and ask why do we have to do it this way.

V. THE STRANGE FIRE IS STILL AMONG US TODAY AND IS STILL BEING PERPETUATED BY THE YOUNGER GENERATION.

1. WHY IS IT THAT THIS STRANGE FIRE ALWAYS SEEMS TO ORIGINATE WITH THE YOUNGER GENERATION?

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So many will question and ask why do we have to do it this way.

Jeremiah 6:16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein.

We are living in a day where we have the younger generation make fun of the old hymns, make fun of the old way of doing things. They call those who believe in the fundamentals of the Bible, they call them fundys, mock old time preaching and teaching.

A. THE YOUNGER GENERATION OFTEN HAS NO RESPECT FOR THE OLDER GENERATION WHICH CAUSES THEM TO SEEK STRANGE FIRE.

There is a tendency to boo hoo the old generation.

The Lord expected his ministers to look to Him for the way to do things.

So we are living in a day where there is a younger generation being reared up that has no regard for the older way of doing things.

We need a new Bible.
We need new music.
We need new terminology.

Look, we need the same spirit that proceeds from the Apostles at the day of Pentecost. This is the fire that needs to be perpetuated. Very little is said about the music of that church. Except what Paul wrote:

Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
Colossians 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Leviticus 19:32 Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.

Fearing God and honoring those who are older both are signs of godliness.
God says, honor the face of the old man.

B. Often this younger generation goes after a strange fire by seeking a new theology.

They seek to redefine old terms. Don't use biblical phrases, like saved, born again, salvation. Now people who need to be saved are called seekers, churches are called campuses, and seeker friendly churches, the whole church is set up to look like a night club rather than a church.

All this is sanctified by the fact that it draws larger crowds. Again Nadab and Abihu probably were distracted by the euphoria of the large crowds. They refer to their churches as seeker friendly churches.

Offering up the strange fire and incense seemed like a small infraction but it brought God's wrath. Why do we think we can now redefine everything in the church and consider it ok? Why is this not a strange fire and why would this not draw the wrath of God some day, if it is not drawing that wrath even now.

God is not impressed by crowds.
God is not impressed by men.
God seeks a church that is obedient.
God is seeking servants who serve him the way He wants them to serve.

C. WHEN YOU HAVE A SOCIETY WHERE THE YOUNGER GENERATION RULES AND DISREGARDS THE ADVICE OF THE ANCIENTS GOD SEES THIS AS A CURSE AS WELL AS A STRANGE FIRE.

Isaiah 3:1 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water.

Isaiah 3:2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient,

Isaiah 3:3 The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.

Isaiah 3:4 And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.

Isaiah 3:5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

Isaiah 3:6 When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, saying, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand:

Isaiah 3:7 In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor clothing: make me not a ruler of the people.

Isaiah 3:8 For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.

Isaiah 3:9 The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto their soul! for they have rewarded evil unto themselves.

Isaiah 3:10 Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Isaiah 3:11 Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Isaiah 3:12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Right now we are seeing God's judgment on our nation just like in the days of Israel. Noble men are being bashed and put down while we are seeing our police bowing their knees to an angry mob of young people. Politicians who are playing footsies with these rebels hoping to gain votes and be politically correct are playing with strange fire.

A strange fire is a flame in the land.

1. THIS STRANGE FIRE IS PUTTING DOWN THE STAY AND STAFF THE STABLE LEADERSHIP IS BEING GIVEN OVER TO OTHERS.

Isaiah 3:1 For, behold, the Lord, the LORD of hosts, doth take away from Jerusalem and from Judah the stay and the staff, the whole stay of bread, and the whole stay of water.

Isaiah 3:2 The mighty man, and the man of war, the judge, and the prophet, and the prudent, and the ancient,

Isaiah 3:3 The captain of fifty, and the honourable man, and the counsellor, and the cunning artificer, and the eloquent orator.

God is removing great leaders and replacing it with second rate leaders.

We are having veteran policemen retiring and quitting their jobs.

We have a virus that is targeting the older generation? How do you replace people like Jack McKeeby? Selwyn Schmitt, a generation is passing and look at the leadership that is rising up.

When I was in Bible College we always looked to the older preachers for wisdom and direction. No more. The older preachers are outdated, they are not with the times.

God is removing the stay and the staff.

2. THIS STRANGE FIRE IS MAKING CHILDREN OPPRESSIVE.

A. WHEN CHILDREN BECOME THE LEADERS THERE IS CONFUSION.

Isaiah 3:4 And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them.

Isaiah 3:5 And the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable.

This is what we are seeing in our cities today. What amazes me, is why are more whites rioting than blacks? I think there are a lot of blacks that are tired of people using their skin color as a license to riot. Most of these people tearing down statues are not blacks. They are anarchist young college age brats.

3. When we let the strange fire of rebels and discontents fester, here is the end result:

Isaiah 3:6 When a man shall take hold of his brother of the house of his father, saying, Thou hast clothing, be thou our ruler, and let this ruin be under thy hand:

Isaiah 3:7 In that day shall he swear, saying, I will not be an healer; for in my house is neither bread nor clothing: make me not a ruler of the people.

Isaiah 3:8 For Jerusalem is ruined, and Judah is fallen: because their tongue and their doings are against the LORD, to provoke the eyes of his glory.

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Isaiah 3:12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

What is the reward given into the hands of the wicked?

Isaiah 3:11 Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

Isaiah 3:12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Our society we are being oppressed by children.

We have children taking over police stations.

We have children looting and stealing.

Notice as a judgment to an ungodly nation the Lord said that Women shall rule.

When women rule a nation it is a sign that God has given that nation the reward of their evil deeds.

Look at what has happened to congress with these woman in white. How sad it is that these woman are acting like a bunch of Jezebels. Who do we have in control of the house but Cruella Deville of the West. Here we have a woman who is so rebellious against authority she tore up the presidents state of the union address to make an open show of her disdain for him.

God says that when a nation is given over to woman leadership it is a mockery to them. It is evidence of His disdain.

It is like saying the woman rules the roost in the family.

It is so bad in our nation today that we actually have people coming out with gender neutral Bibles.

People no longer can refer to God as God their Father. The very godhead is a picture of the family.

God the Father represents Fatherhood.
God the Holy Spirit represents the wife or comforter.
God the son represents a child who is submissive to their Father.

The Bible is a paternal book.
We pray to God our Father.

Our families are made in the image of God and when we reject that our families go into chaos and confusion.

The Lord said when a nation rejected the Lord their creator he gives them over to confusion and that confusion is this:

Isaiah 3:12 As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.

Look I know the world does not believe that but what i am shocked about is I wonder if people in the church believe it because we are awful silent about these things.

There is coming a day, and that day may be here, that when we preach what the Bible says people think we are crazy. So much so, that if it were not for the grace of God we could have had Hillary, that other Cruella Deville of the east, as our president, and in her own words she said that churches are just going to have to get over their Homophobia and get with it. Who knows what she would have done if she got elected. I think this is why the coven of witches in congress are so dead set on destroying our president.

In Israel the Lord dealt with Nadab and Abihu's sin quickly and decisively.

Fire came out immediately and killed Nadab and Abihu.

The problem we have today is the leaders of our nation are tolerating this strange fire. The strange fire will ignite other rebels, like gasoline to kindling and sparks.

Our Lord shows how displeased He is with this strange fire and stops it dead in its tracks through his severe judgment.

Isaiah 3 shows that God's judgment is here. No, fire has not come out of God's throne to destroy the few who have ignited a strange fire. God is letting that fire come out like in the days of Abimelech and the city of Schechem. I think the prophecy of Jotham is coming to pass on this nation:

Judges 9:20 But if not, let fire come out from Abimelech, and devour the men of Shechem, and the house of Millo; and let fire come out from the men of Shechem, and from the house of Millo, and devour Abimelech.

God is sending a spirit of division in our nation today because of men's wickedness. That Spirit is evident in so many ways.

This strange fire is nothing more than men doing what is right in their own eyes. Serving God the way they want to serve Him. It is a spirit of self will and rebellion. God showed what He thought of it from the very beginning of the nations history.

By God's grace let us dispel this strange fire from our lives, our churches, and our nation itself.

LEVITICUS CHAPTER 10 Lesson Continued: STRANGE FIRE OF NADAB AND ABIHU

Intro: Last lesson we preached about the strange fire that Nadab and Abihu offered up to the Lord. I believe the Lord dealt severely with the young men because their sin would be a foretaste of the end time error of the contemporary church. Today our churches are filled with strange fires. Self willed religion, men's worst imaginations dictate the way that they will come to God. This is the prevailing thought of mankind today. We are so far removed from the God of the Bible that every man does what is right in his own eyes when it comes to worshipping God. Every man has his own high places and offerings placed on these altars of strange fire prevail. Now we read about the only way that Aaron could exhibit his grief being a priest of God and forbidden to mourn for his sons.

I. THE STRANGE FIRE OFFERED BY NADAB AND ABIHU.

Leviticus 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

Leviticus 10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Leviticus 10:3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace.

Leviticus 10:4 And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.

Leviticus 10:5 So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said.

I. Aaron and his sons are commanded not to mourn for Nadab and Abihu.

Leviticus 10:6 And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people: but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the LORD hath kindled.

Leviticus 10:7 And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the LORD is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses.

A difficult command was this for Aaron and his family. Yet a higher standard is given for the priest and his family than the average member of the congregation. So it is today that there are higher standards for a bishop:

I Tim 3:1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

1TI 3:2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

1TI 3:3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

1TI 3:4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

1TI 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

1TI 3:6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1TI 3:7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

II. MOSES COMMANDS AARON AND HIS SONS TO FINISH OFFERING THE OFFERINGS THAT WERE BEING PRESENTED FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE TABERNACLE.

Leviticus 10:12 And Moses spake unto Aaron, and unto Eleazar and unto Ithamar, his sons that were left, Take the meat offering that remaineth of the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and eat it without leaven beside the altar: for it is most holy:

Leviticus 10:13 And ye shall eat it in the holy place, because it is thy due, and thy sons' due, of the sacrifices of the LORD made by fire: for so I am commanded.

Leviticus 10:14 And the wave breast and heave shoulder shall ye eat in a clean place; thou, and thy sons, and thy daughters with thee: for they be thy due, and thy sons' due, which are given out of the sacrifices of peace offerings of the children of Israel.

Leviticus 10:15 The heave shoulder and the wave breast shall they bring with the offerings made by fire of the fat, to wave it for a wave offering before the LORD; and it shall be thine, and thy sons' with thee, by a statute for ever; as the LORD hath commanded.

What we need to realize is that these were the first offerings offered on the new brazen altar. This was the dedication of the tabernacle. God just had manifested His glory by consuming the offerings on the altar and now Moses tells Aaron and his sons to finish.

In the midst of this, Aaron's two sons are killed because of offering strange fire to the Lord.

Imagine we are having a dedication service for a new sanctuary we just built and during the dedication services the Lord strikes dead two assistant Pastors. This was not unlike the situation with Ananias and Sapphira in the book of Acts.

III. MOSES NOTICED SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFERINGS.

Leviticus 10:16 And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt: and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron which were left alive, saying,

Leviticus 10:17 Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it is most holy, and God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD?

Leviticus 10:18 Behold, the blood of it was not brought in within the holy place: ye should indeed have eaten it in the holy place, as I commanded.

Leviticus 10:19 And Aaron said unto Moses, Behold, this day have they offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the LORD; and such things have befallen me: and if I had eaten the sin offering to day, should it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD?

Leviticus 10:20 And when Moses heard that, he was content.

John Gill

...behold, this day they have offered their sin offering and their burnt offering before the Lord; that is, the people of Israel had brought a kid of the goats for a sin offering, and a calf and a lamb for burnt offering, and he and his sons assisting him, had offered them for them, even on the very day his two eldest sons were removed by death in an awful manner: and such things have befallen me; at this very time, soon after the above sacrifices were offered, happened the death of his two sons, which occasioned great anguish and distress, grief and sorrow, so that he could not eat of the sin offering; he had no appetite for it, and if he had, he thought in his present circumstances it would not have been right, as follows:

and if I had eaten the sin offering today, should it have been accepted in the sight of the Lord? he being a mourner. The Jews say {u}, an high priest may offer, being a mourner, but not eat; a common priest may neither offer nor

eat; and which they illustrate by this passage, that Aaron offered and did not eat, but his sons did neither.

Matthew Henry

He enquires concerning one deviation from the appointment, which it seems had happened upon this occasion, which was this:-There was a goat to be sacrificed as a sin-offering for the people, ch. 9:15. Now the law of the sin-offerings was that if the blood of them was brought into the holy place, as that of the sin-offerings for the priest was, then the flesh was to be burnt without the camp; otherwise it was to be eaten by the priest in the holy place, ch. 6:30. The meaning of this is here explained (v. 17), that the priests did hereby bear the iniquity of the congregation, that is, they were types of him who was to be made sin for us, and on whom God would lay the iniquity of us all. Now the blood of this goat was not brought into the holy place, and yet, it seems, it was burnt without the camp. Now observe here,

1. The gentle reproof Moses gives to Aaron and his sons for this irregularity. Here again Aaron's sons are said to be those that were left alive (v. 16), who therefore ought to have taken warning; and Moses was angry with them. Though he was the meekest man in the world, it seems he could be angry; and when he thought God was disobeyed and dishonored, and the priesthood endangered, he would be angry. Yet observe how very mildly he deals with Aaron and his sons, considering their present affliction. He only tells them they should indeed have eaten it in the holy place, but is willing to hear what they have to say for themselves, being loth to speak to the grief of those whom God had wounded.

2. The plausible excuse which Aaron makes for this mistake. Moses charged the fault upon Eleazar and Ithamar (v. 16), but it is probable that what they did was by Aaron's direction, and therefore he apologized for it. He might have pleaded that this was a sin-offering for the congregation, and if it had been a bullock it must have been wholly burnt (ch. 4:21), and therefore why not now that it was a goat? But it seems it was otherwise ordered at this time, and therefore he makes his affliction his excuse, v. 19. Observe,

(1.) How he speaks of affliction: Such things have befallen me, such sad things, which could not but go near his heart, and make it very heavy. He was a high priest taken from among men, and could not put off natural affection when he put on the holy garments. He held his peace (v. 3), yet his sorrow was stirred, as David's, Ps. 39:2. Note, There may be a deep sense of affliction even where there is a sincere resignation to the will of God in the affliction. "Such things as never befell me before, and as I little expected now. My spirits cannot but sink, when I see my family sinking; I must needs be heavy, when God is angry:" thus it is easy to say a great deal to aggravate an affliction, but it is better to say little.

(2.) How he makes this an excuse for his varying from the appointment about the sin-offering. He could not have eaten it but in his mourning, and with a sorrowful

spirit; and would this have been accepted? He does not plead that his heart was so full of grief that he had no appetite for it, but that he feared it would not be accepted. Note,

1. Acceptance with God is the great thing we should desire and aim at in all our religious services, particularly in the Lord's supper, which is our eating of the sin-offering.

2. The sorrow of the world is a very great hindrance to our acceptable performance of holy duties, both as it is discomposing to ourselves, takes off our chariot-wheels and makes us drive heavily (1 Sa. 1:7, 8), and as it is displeasing to God, whose will it is that we should serve him cheerfully, Deu. 12:7. Mourner's bread was polluted, Hos. 9:4. See Mal. 3:14.

3. The acquiescence of Moses in this excuse: He was content, v. 20. Perhaps he thought it justified what they had done. God had provided that what could not be eaten might be burnt. Our unfitness for duty, when it is natural and not sinful, will have great allowances made for it; and God will have mercy and not sacrifice. At least he thought it did very much extenuate the fault; the spirit indeed was willing, but the flesh was weak. God by Moses showed that he considered his frame. It appeared that Aaron sincerely aimed at God's acceptance; and those that do so with an upright heart shall find he is not extreme to mark what they do amiss. Nor must we be severe in our animadversions upon every mistake, considering ourselves, lest we also be tempted.

So Aaron veered from the commandment because he sought God's glory and honor, while Nadab and Abihu were consumed for the veering from the commandment because their error was motivated by their glory and self will. So the motivation for offering strange fire is revealed. Men offer strange fire because they are seeking their glory and not the Lord's. So it is with the contemporary church today. Whose glory is at stake when there is a strange fire offered up?

Aaron basically says, that he is in no condition of heart and mind to represent the people before the Lord in eating the sacrifices. So he burnt them because what was left over from the priest that they did not eat was to be burnt. Basically he had no appetite to eat and was in mourning for his sons. How could he, being in mourning, eat the offering? His sons did not eat the offerings or partake in burning them on the altar. So the Jews set a precedent from this text that the high priest could offer offerings while in mourning but were not to eat of the offering, while regular priests could neither offer an offering or eat of it.