



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

LEVITICUS 10:1-7

DEATH OF NEDAB AND ABIHU— September 12, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

AARON PRONOUNCES THE BENEDICTION:

Chapter 9:22-24 When the sacrificial ceremony was over, Aaron proceeds to pronounce the benediction. Aaron lifted his hands toward the people and blessed them. And having sacrificed the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the fellowship offering, he stepped down, and Moses and Aaron then went into the tent of meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people. Fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar. And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy and fell facedown (NIV).

LESSON: I. THE FIRE OF THE LORD LEVITICUS 10:1-3

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. Nadab and Abihu are the oldest sons of Aaron. A "censer" is a vessel used for carrying hot coals and for the burning of incense (Lev.16:12). Often incense was placed on top of the hot coals to burn (Num.16:46). Each took his censer and put fire in it and incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD in which the LORD did not command them to do so.

1. Point 1: This speaks of "Strange Fire" meaning unfamiliar unauthorized; and unholy fire that did not come from the altar.
2. Point 2: The last part of this verse speaks volumes. When God did not command something then you are in disobedience by doing it. Either you are...
 - a. Presuming to do what God had not commanded.
 - b. Trying to take over the duties of the High Priest.
 - c. Vying for supremacy among themselves.

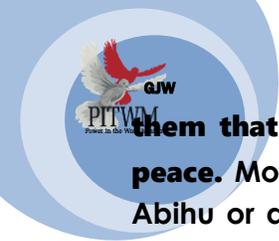
God allowed the High Priest to enter the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement. The incense that was in his hand was placed upon the fire of the burning coals which caused the smoke to come from the censer, and the smoke would shield and hide the mercy seat above the Ark of the Covenant (containing the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments). Aaron, the priest was protected and would not die because the smoke would shield and hide him from the mercy seat and Ark or the presence of God. Aaron would not gaze upon the mercy seat.

10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. Since God had not authorized what Nadab and Abihu had done, the fire of the Lord went out and devoured them as He would consume a sacrifice. They died before the LORD. God wanted all to know the seriousness of disobedience. If we look at Korah (a descendant of Levi) who incited rebellion against Moses, he and his whole family were swallowed up by the ground. The censers had been holy unto the Lord since they had been anointed and sanctified for use in the tabernacle.

10:3 Then Moses said unto Aaron, This is it that the LORD spake, saying, I will be sanctified in

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them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace. Moses conveys to Aaron of what the LORD had spoken. He's talking about Nadab and Abihu or any priests that would come near Him, He, the LORD will be sanctified; holy; and be respected in them. And He will be glorified before all the people. Upon hearing this, Aaron did not say anything about his sons dying. He accepted the LORD's Words!

II. OUR SERVICE TO THE LORD LEVITICUS 10:4-5

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. Moses proceeded to call forth Mishael and Elzaphan (cousins of Aaron; sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel) to carry Nadab and Abihu's charred bodies away, for they had to carry them from the front of the sanctuary to outside the camp (Lev.4:12). It would be ceremonially unclean for Moses or Aaron or any priest to touch a dead body. God was neither glorified nor set apart by them in their actions and they died as a result. How many of us with all our sin would still be living if it were not for the "grace of God?"

10:5 So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said. So, Mishael and Elzaphan took the charred bodies of Nadab and Abihu, as they laid there still clothed in their robes of linen. They were carried outside the camp.

III. THE CALL OF THE LORD LEVITICUS 10:6-7

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. Eleazar is the third son of Aaron, and Ithamar is the youngest son of Aaron. Anyone who touched a dead body became ceremonially unclean, so Aaron and his two remaining sons were not allowed to come near the dead bodies of Nadab and Abihu. Therefore, Moses told them that they were not to let their hair hang loose, neither tear their clothes because if they did, they would also die. Why? Because they weren't to show any sign of grief, for then wrath would come upon the whole congregation. Why? Because they would be in rebellion and disobedience as the two sons that had been killed by God. They were to abstain from all traditional signs of mourning. But the relatives of Nadab and Abihu and the rest of the people of Israel could lament and mourn because of the terrible fire the LORD had sent.

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. So, Aaron and his two sons were not allowed to go near the dead bodies of Nadab and Abihu; not even outside the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, for they would die and because the anointing oil of the Lord was upon them. Even if it was a relative, it didn't matter, they were to minister unto the Lord. They did exactly as Moses had instructed them.

SUMMARY:

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Nadab and Abihu are the sons of Aaron. Each took his censer and put fire in it and incense on it and offered strange fire before the LORD in which the LORD did not command them to do. Since God had not authorized what Nadab and Abihu had done, the fire of the Lord went out and devoured them as He would consume a sacrifice. They died before the LORD. Then Moses conveys to Aaron of what the LORD had spoken. He's talking about Nadab and Abihu or any priests that would come near Him. He, the LORD will be sanctified; holy; and be respected by them. And He will be glorified before all the people. Upon hearing this, Aaron did not say anything about his sons dying. He accepted the LORD's Words! **(10:1-3)**.

Moses proceeded to call forth Mishael and Elzaphan (cousins of Aaron; sons Aaron's uncle Uzziel) to carry Nadab and Abihu's charred bodies away, for they had to carry them out from the front of the sanctuary to outside of the camp (Lev.4:12). So, Mishael and Elzaphan took the charred bodies of Nadab and Abihu, as they laid there still clothed in their robes of linen. They were carried outside the camp. **(10:4-5)**.

Moses tells Aaron, Eleazar and Ithamar, his two remaining sons, that they were not to let their hair hang loose, neither tear their clothes because if they did, they would also die. Why? Because they weren't to show any sign of grief, for then wrath would come upon the whole congregation. Why? Because they would be in rebellion and disobedience as the two sons that had just been killed by God. But the relatives of Nadab and Abihu and the rest of the people of Israel could lament and mourn because of the terrible fire the LORD had sent. But, Aaron and his two sons were not allowed to come near the dead bodies; not even outside the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, for they would die, and because the anointing oil of the Lord was upon them. They did exactly as Moses had instructed them **(10:6-7)**.