

# The Book of Leviticus

## The Sin of Nadab and Abihu

Text: Leviticus 10

- I. The Sin and Its Punishment (Leviticus 10:1-2)
  - A. Chapters 8 – 10 of the Book of Leviticus deal with the role and duties of the priests.
  - B. This section includes the sorrowful example of the sin of two priests, sons of Aaron.
  - C. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire in worship to Jehovah.
    1. The word for 'strange' means, "Foreign or profane."
    2. It was strange because God had not commanded (authorized) it.
    3. By specifying what fire was to be used, God excluded the use of any other type of fire.
    4. This principle still applies under the New Testament (cf. Col. 3:16-17).
  - D. Because they rejected the authority of God, God punished them with death.
  
- II. The Seriousness of Sanctification (Leviticus 10:3-7)
  - A. God emphasized that He had not been held sacred by these two priests.
  - B. God is sanctified – holy, set apart from all others – and must be revered by those who would come to Him in worship.
  - C. Because the priests had been sanctified for their appointed service at the Tabernacle, they could not leave their duties or mourn as one would in such a time of sorrow.
  - D. One's holiness to God never is to be taken lightly.
  
- III. The Service of the Priests (Leviticus 10:8-15)
  - A. The priests were to make sure that nothing would impair their judgment when they were serving the Lord – thus, they were not to drink wine nor strong drink.
  - B. Furthermore, they needed clear thinking to be able to teach others the will of God.
  - C. All Christians must remember that they are the priests of God under the New Covenant (cf. 1 Pet. 2:9; etc.).
  - D. It is just as important for Christians to faithfully obey the commands of God in worship and service as it was for the Old Testament priests.
  - E. We must not allow our minds to become clouded by anything that would affect our service and worship.
    1. Alcohol, drugs, etc.
    2. Pride, stubbornness, rebellion, etc.
    3. Error, false doctrine, false teachers, etc.
    4. Family, friends, preacher, etc.
  - F. Just like the OT priests, it is our duty to teach God's will to others; therefore, we must study, memorize, and learn the Bible.
  
- IV. The Sorrow of Aaron (Leviticus 10:16-20)