

put difference between holy and unholy

chapter ten Leviticus

~ Flames reigning down from Heaven as the priests fell on their face and worshipped the True and Living God is where our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God concluded our previous report; and, in this chapter, the priests are all still on their faces worshipping God. All except for two, I should say; because there are two priests running around collecting fire and offering it when there have been no commandments to them about how to handle said wrongly attained fire. What happens next is a little startling, to be sure and, friends, if you are not prepared to learn the Bible properly, correctly and completely, then it is certainly a good time for you to stop reading this so-called safari.

These two sons of Aaron intrude into the priestly office with no authority – and the penalty for that is death. There is a tremendous spiritual application of this for believers today. Leviticus is a unique narrative, where only two incidents are recorded outside of the instructions for the priests – and this is one of them. This is a book of instruction, ritual, regulation - and law. It does not make for very interesting reading, to be sure. It's near to reading the local government laws where you live. Here, we have a change of pace, but it's not very welcome; because it's nothing but a tragedy! It is another record of the blot on mankind's long and sordid natural history of sin and disobedience. God calls them sons of Aaron – meaning they were priests.

In our last report, we had the glorious dedication of the tabernacle where the glory of the Lord was revealed to these people. That's always the way it seems to happen: after the rush of glory comes the deflation of defeat for so many people. Joshua had that problem at Jericho when his noble victory quickly turned to a bitter defeat at Ai. This account amounts to nothing but presumption and assumption by these two men. The way we have been over this law so meticulously since Mount Sinai makes this a particularly

alarming act of dissent. Two specific laws were made in Exodus: one, the priests were to sanctify themselves and, two, the priests were not to make or use frankincense; both of which are what is going on here!

The holiness of the Lord God is now set forth in Scripture as it has been since the beginning of the age of law. If you think holiness is not set forth in this age of grace, then you will one day have an opportunity to ask Ananias and Sapphira how the law was enforced and how the drastic penalty in BOTH cases was death! God is holy friends, and He will deal with You on His level. The Lord God is a consuming fire. This is something we all need to learn right now! Paul said, "... knowing the terror of the Lord – the fear of the Lord – we persuade men." The writer to the Hebrews said, "... see that you refuse not him that speaketh; for if they escape not who refused him who spake on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him that speaketh from Heaven." The greatest sin of the hour is not hearing what God has to say to you in His Word. Do you listen to God when He speaks to you? Do you obey what He says? Do you think God speaks to you in the Bible or in some other, strange way? ~

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.

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

~ Perhaps the death penalty seems a little harsh to you for this infraction. But notice the phrase "which He commanded them not!" That reveals the enormity of this infraction. When we view it correctly it makes sense – this was willful and deliberate rebellion and disobedience to the express command of God Almighty concerning their office. The act that brought this down on them has been called "will worship" and that's a good name for it; but here are three aspects of this. First, they likely did not light the censor from the coals off the altar of incense. It was well understood that this must be done as we will see in chapter sixteen. They were also to bring incense beaten small within the veil. Of course, this will also be the ritual at the time of the rebellion of Korah. We simply must assume that the method

God gave is the only correct and acceptable method to perform this ritual - and that the ritual they made up was contrary to Gods way and will.

The third direction they disobeyed was the timing that put them out of step with God-given rituals because the days of worship had been completed at the time that these two boys snuck in and did their thing with the incense. If they had consulted Aaron in this matter, this would not have happened; but they are doing whatever they want to do. After the intense display from the two preceding chapters, these two men wanted to repeat it! In our day this is manifest in the desire to repeat the Day of Pentecost! So many people are trying to work something up down here that's sensational and, my friends, that's called will worship! God will strike you dead – you really need to note this. The Spirit of God is sovereign and Holy! God moves according to His will! You and I will make ourselves available and obedient unto Him or we will join Nadab and Abihu in a place other than the present!

I suppose there are other people that intruded beyond the veil, which was expressly forbidden. Chapter sixteen makes it perfectly clear they are not to come inside the Holy of Holies, and that admonishment was a result of this infraction. So, I have to assume this is exactly what happened. Having said all of that, I am sure this soft, bleeding-hearted generation we live in still have a generation gap between themselves and God, and they will still say this is too extreme of punishment. Well, it reveals God is a jealous God Who is sovereign in all His dealings. Those who come to God will come on HIS terms only! It is STILL true that to obey is better than sacrifice. God will not accept your will worship – you can just write that down. The priestly office these two men held granted them NO immunity from the sudden execution of judgment, which is frightening how swift and absolute it was! You CANNOT escape the statement, "... fire from the Lord!"

None of this is foreign to our present age of grace. God may or may not deal with you suddenly, but the surety is certain. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you and many sleep. If you think God does not move in judgment today, you're woefully mistaken. When we go the wrong way, God will stop us! For Ananias and Sapphira it was both sudden and sure. I DO NOT think these two sons lost their salvation, however; and neither did Ananias or Sapphira. The Bible makes it more than clear there is

a sin unto death, but subsequent believers struck dead do not lose their salvation. If we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged; but when we are judged we are chastened of the Lord that we should not be condemned with the world. We have to add all of those truths together to form a reasonable final conclusion.

Friends, God judges His own people today whether you like it or not - and physical death is sometimes a part of His judgment! We DO have a sin unto death – but only a physical death because the child of God is not condemned with the world. Eternal condemnation is simply not a part of judgment for a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ! This is merely an example that "will worship" is detestable to God; and He will not permit it! The believing sinner is urged to come God's way all the way through the Bible. In fact, we are told to come boldly today by the blood of Christ Who has made a new and living way; the way which He has consecrated through the veil – that is, to say, His flesh! Having a High Priest over the house of God let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Christ makes all the difference in the world, my beloved!

All of you little Jesus people who claim healing and claim this and that – have you ever stopped to consider maybe the problem is a judgment from God? In the blackness of night when time stands still, I wouldn't exclude myself from the possibility of judgment for many, many, many things in my life. In all of the things I say to you today, remember; there's a very real person typing this stuff out! This typing man just happens to know what he is talking about! I still say God does ALL things well! This is an almighty illustration and lesson we have in this section of Scripture. God will come forth one day in fiery judgment upon the lost world. This may be a good day to get your head out of the sand. I believe everything I am saying about judgment with all my heart! Peter asked, "... if the righteous scarcely be saved, then where do the ungodly and sinners appear?" It's a very good question....

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.

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.

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

~ I think when the word spread throughout the host of Israel about this event, everyone must have come out to look at the dead bodies of these two young men. Moses quoted the word of the Lord as the explanation for this judgment. The priests that came near were to sanctify themselves lest the Lord break forth upon them. Those who have been brought particularly close to God must exercise sharp insights into the holy demands and subsequent righteousness of a Holy God.

Amos 3:2 You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities ~

~ A Holy God judges His saints for their sins to let the world know He is just and righteous in all He does; and that God DOES judge. I also think Aaron's conduct is notable. He maintains his wisdom in silence. There is no disagreement with Moses and there is no crying or mourning for the sons. There is no resentment towards God as Aaron bows in an, obviously, heart-broken submission to the will of an Almighty God. Aaron will say nothing against the sovereign will of God although his grief must have been deep. So, notice the further instructions that come out of this incident...

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.

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.

~ Notice the restrictions placed on Aaron and his remaining sons as a result of what has happened. They are told NOT to mourn outwardly. I think there are two reasons for this: one, the anointing oil was upon them and they were representatives of God before the people and of the people before God! The continuance of their office was so a Mediator might be established between them and the Living God! Without that Mediator wrath and judgment was all these people had to look forward to until death. Remember, they had agreed to keep the law - but they hadn't kept it. Second, an outward emotional display would contradict and undermine God and His judgments of their loved ones. I am sure they went about their priestly duties with sad hearts for some time. However, friends, there is to be no outward display of rebellion against God when we are serving Him! Period! ~

8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying,

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:

~ The impression I get here is that Nadab and Abihu were under the influence of alcohol when this happened. This may well be the finest example we have in Scripture against the use and abuse of alcohol and drugs. The priest must serve God with a clear, steady and sober mind! Today, we find drugs being used in religion all the time. I am here to tell you that God DESPISES that approach to Him! Anyone guilty of this is getting absolutely nowhere with the Lord in their life. Paul said, "... be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Holy Spirit!" This is quite a lesson against drugs and alcohol!

I hear the question over and over until I am hung over with people asking whether the wine Jesus made at the wedding in Canaan was fermented or not? I don't think so; God made it clear that we are to have nothing to do with that. God isn't going to change His standard – AND – when you first make wine it's not fermented; so, Jesus COULD have made fermented, intoxicating wine - but I would bet my LIFE it wasn't!

Now, Moses feels compelled to repeat the instructions for the meal offering and the peace offering so we should feel compelled to read them again! They were to make these offerings in the holy place in the tabernacle and to eat them there. Of course, the holy place is in the outer court near the brazen altar, and it is a place set aside for the holiness of God! Sanctification means "set aside for God!" There is a difference here, though it may seem without distinction. Merely a "clean place" would have meant in their homes - and it was also made clean ceremonially, of course....

10 And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean;

11 And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

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:

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.

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.

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.

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,

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?

~ Well, we didn't even get out of this chapter and we see the failures of the OTHER sons of Aaron! Here we have a sin of omission as opposed to Nadab and Abihu's sin of commission. Eleazar and Ithamar were not willful and deliberate sinners as were their brothers. All they left out was eating; they omitted doing this, apparently, not realizing the importance of what they had not done. The other parts of the commandments had all been kept correctly, properly and completely....

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.

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?

20 And when Moses heard that, he was content.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari seeing Aaron assuming responsibility for his sons. This incident has caused all of us to lose our appetites and has cropped a feeling of unworthiness in me – well, maybe not you - but certainly in me. I think Aaron had difficulties continuing with God for some period of time after this and, right now, I am absolutely sure Aaron felt like turning in his resignation. At least Moses is satisfied with the explanation as we stop to camp for the night.

A tremendous truth has been revealed as two men came to God on their own terms. It was blaspheme, and that blaspheme was undeniably judged. For some people today, their church membership is a sin; worthy of judgment! How about you? Do you recognize the deity of Christ and acknowledge it, or do you deny God altogether? Do you think you can come to God your way without being struck dead? One day, you will have an

opportunity to ask them what happened. Of course, you'll already know when you see them! Nadab and Abihu are dead as door nails, friends; and if God judged sin THIS harshly today I think three quarters of the church going population would not be with us tomorrow; ALL of the liberal church would be gone and the rest of the percentage would come from the conservative church.

Thank God He isn't enforcing His law on this earth on those terms – BUT – if we're coming to God for mercy then we are coming to Him on His terms. The Lord Jesus Christ and His offer of salvation is not some arrangement that YOU make. You don't make any rules – God has already given them all to you. You only need to finally learn them. No man cometh unto the Father but by ME, saith the Lord Jesus Christ! How about you, friends? Are you following so many others; the famous people, musicians, actors, singers and celebrities – others that seem to have it all together - but who did it and are doing it "their way?" ~
