

Torah Studies    Leviticus: *Vayikrah* – *And He Called*

Nadab and Abihu  
Leviticus 10



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Torah Studies

On Keeping God's Word

## Torah Studies

## On Keeping God's Word

- Psalm 119:57-60 (NKJV)

57 [You are] my portion, O LORD;

I have said that I would keep Your words.

58 I entreated Your favor with [my] whole heart;

Be merciful to me according to Your word.

## Torah Studies

## On Keeping God's Word

- Psalm 119:57-60 (NKJV)

59 I thought about my ways,

And turned my feet to Your testimonies.

60 I made haste, and did not delay

To keep Your commandments.

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Introduction

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Dividing Up **Leviticus:**

Introduction

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Dividing Up **Leviticus**:

**Part 1:** Sacrifice: Approaching a Holy God **Ch. 1 – 10**

**Part 2:** Sanctification: Living a Holy Life **Ch. 11 – 27**

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Introduction

Previously in **Leviticus:**

# Nadab and Abihu

## Leviticus 10

## Introduction

### Previously in **Leviticus**:

- In **Leviticus 8 – 9**, we saw the ordination of Aaron and his sons.
- This covered their initiation into their ministry.
- The first sacrifices were consumed by divine fire.
- The scene culminated in God's glory filling the tabernacle.

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Previously in **Leviticus**:

- Throughout **Leviticus 8 – 9**, we recurring phrases like “**as the Lord commanded**” or something similar.

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What to expect in Leviticus 10:

# Nadab and Abihu

## Leviticus 10

## Introduction

### What to expect in **Leviticus 10**:

- In this chapter we see how seriously God took the instructions He gave to the priests.
- Nadab and Abihu, two sons of Aaron, come before God with unauthorized fire.
- This will be the last thing they do.
- The rest of the chapter is the aftermath of that.

# Nadab and Abihu

## Leviticus 10

## Outline



# Nadab and Abihu

## Leviticus 10

- I. Sin and Judgment 10:1-7
- II. Further Instructions 10:8-11
- III. Eating the Sin Offering 10:12-20

## Outline



# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

- **10:1** We saw that the priests were not to deviate from the instructions God gave them.
- Yet, early in their use of the tabernacle, that is exactly what Nadab and Abihu did.

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

- **10:1** It is not obvious what exactly the “unauthorized fire” was that they offered.
- The main thing we see is that it was something that God “had not commanded.”

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7



*This is a sober reminder to anyone who desires to serve the Lord. We need to serve Him in the way He tells us to, we must never ...*

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7



*... take the glory to ourselves and we can never serve God if we are giving ourselves over to artificial stimulation*

*– Chuck Smith (1927 – 2013),  
Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa*

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

- **10:3** Chuck brings up one possible motivation for their offering the **strange** or **unauthorized fire**.
- In all of our worship, God needs to be glorified.
- There can always be a little temptation to take at least some of that glory for ourselves.

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

- **10:3** It is possible that Nadab and Abihu were a little bit excited about their new positions.
- It can be an exhilarating thing to be called upon to lead the congregation in worship.
- So, they performed an unneeded ritual as a way of stirring up excitement and drawing people's attention.

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

- As a result, they learned what the Bible would later say outright.
- Deuteronomy 4:24

For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

- As a result, they learned what the Bible would later say outright.

- **Hebrews 12:29**

For our God is a consuming fire.

# I. Sin and Judgment

10:1-7

- **10:4-7** The bodies were disposed of properly by Aaron's relatives.
- But Aaron was not allowed to lead the congregation in mourning for his sons.

## II. Further Instructions

10:8-11

## II. Further Instructions

10:8-11

- **10:8-9** The placement of this passage is interesting.
- It may imply that the sons of Aaron were drinking and this may have caused them to get a little carried away.
- Alcohol has a way of loosening a person's inhibitions.
- In this case, some inhibitions might have been helpful.

## II. Initiation of Tabernacle Worship

9:1-24



*Those with an undiminished capacity to distinguish between the holy and the profane are in a better position to instruct God's people. God's people needed to see reverence for Him by example ...*

*– John Jelinek (1960 – 2023),  
Pastor and Bible Commentator*

## II. Initiation of Tabernacle Worship

9:1-24



*... so the priests were to avoid anything that could diminish their ability to carry out God's will.*

*– John Jelinek (1960 – 2023),  
Pastor and Bible Commentator*

## II. Further Instructions

10:8-11

- In **Galatians 5:21**, we see that “drunkenness, orgies, and things like these” are among the works of the flesh.
- On the other hand, a couple of verses later in **5:23**, we see “self control” among the fruit of the Spirit.

### III. Eating the Sin Offering

10:12-20

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10:12-20

- **10:12-15** These instructions from Moses might seem like an odd addition here.
- Under the circumstances, this is a reassurance that God had not rejected the rest of the priestly family.
- Nadab and Abihu were punished immediately and that was the extent of the sentence against them.

### III. Eating the Sin Offering

10:12-20

- **10:16-20** Under the circumstances, Aaron and his sons were engaged in mourning.
- Moses accepted their explanation for not following his instructions.
- It is relevant that the instructions were from Moses and not directly from the Lord in this case.

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Conclusions

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The Importance of Humble Obedience

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Conclusions

The Importance of Humble Obedience

- This is the first such example of God punishing disobedience with a quick death sentence.
- It isn't the last.

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Conclusions

The Importance of Humble Obedience

- In **Numbers 16**, we will see another example of supernatural judgment.
- In this case, Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and 250 leaders challenged Moses and Aaron's authority.

# Nadab and Abihu

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## Conclusions

### The Importance of Humble Obedience

- The ground split open and swallowed the main rebels and their households alive.
- Fire from the Lord then consumed the 250 who were offering incense.

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Conclusions

The Importance of Humble Obedience

- This was swift collective judgment for rebellion against God's appointed leaders.

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The Importance of Humble Obedience

- Another example can be found in **2 Samuel 6**.
- We have already seen how the ark was supposed to be transported by the Levites in a specific way.

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## Conclusions

### The Importance of Humble Obedience

- David and his men, in receiving the ark back after a long absence, ignored those instructions.
- As a result, a man named Uzzah, thinking he was helping, reached out to steady the ark.
- He died instantly.

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## Conclusions

### The Importance of Humble Obedience

- We can also find an example in the New Testament, in the days of the early church in **Acts 5**.
- A couple named Ananias and Sapphira sold property but lied about giving the full amount to the apostles.
- They were claiming full generosity while keeping some of the money back

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The Importance of Humble Obedience

- They evidently wanted the honor that would come from their gift while sacrificing less than they said.
- Peter confronted them for lying to the Holy Spirit.

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The Importance of Humble Obedience

- Ananias dropped dead immediately.
- About three hours later, Sapphira did the same when she repeated the lie.

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Conclusions

The Importance of Humble Obedience

- These events highlight the seriousness of sin.
- **1 Peter 4:17**

For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

# Nadab and Abihu

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## Conclusions

### The Importance of Humble Obedience

- We also see the need for a perfect mediator.
- And this points us to Jesus, our great High Priest.
- He perfectly obeyed His Father and bore God's judgment in our place.