

STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu

What Would They Say Today?

Leviticus 10:1-11



STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu

What Would They Say Today?

- 👁 The relevance of OT lessons — Rom. 15:4
- 👁 Though they be dead, yet they speak — (Heb 11:4; 1 Cor. 10:6,11)

Leviticus 10:1-11



Leviticus 10:1–11 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. ² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying:

‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ” So Aaron held his peace.

Leviticus 10:1–11 (NKJV)

⁴ Then Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said to them, “Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.” ⁵ So they went near and carried them by their tunics out of the camp, as Moses had said. ⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

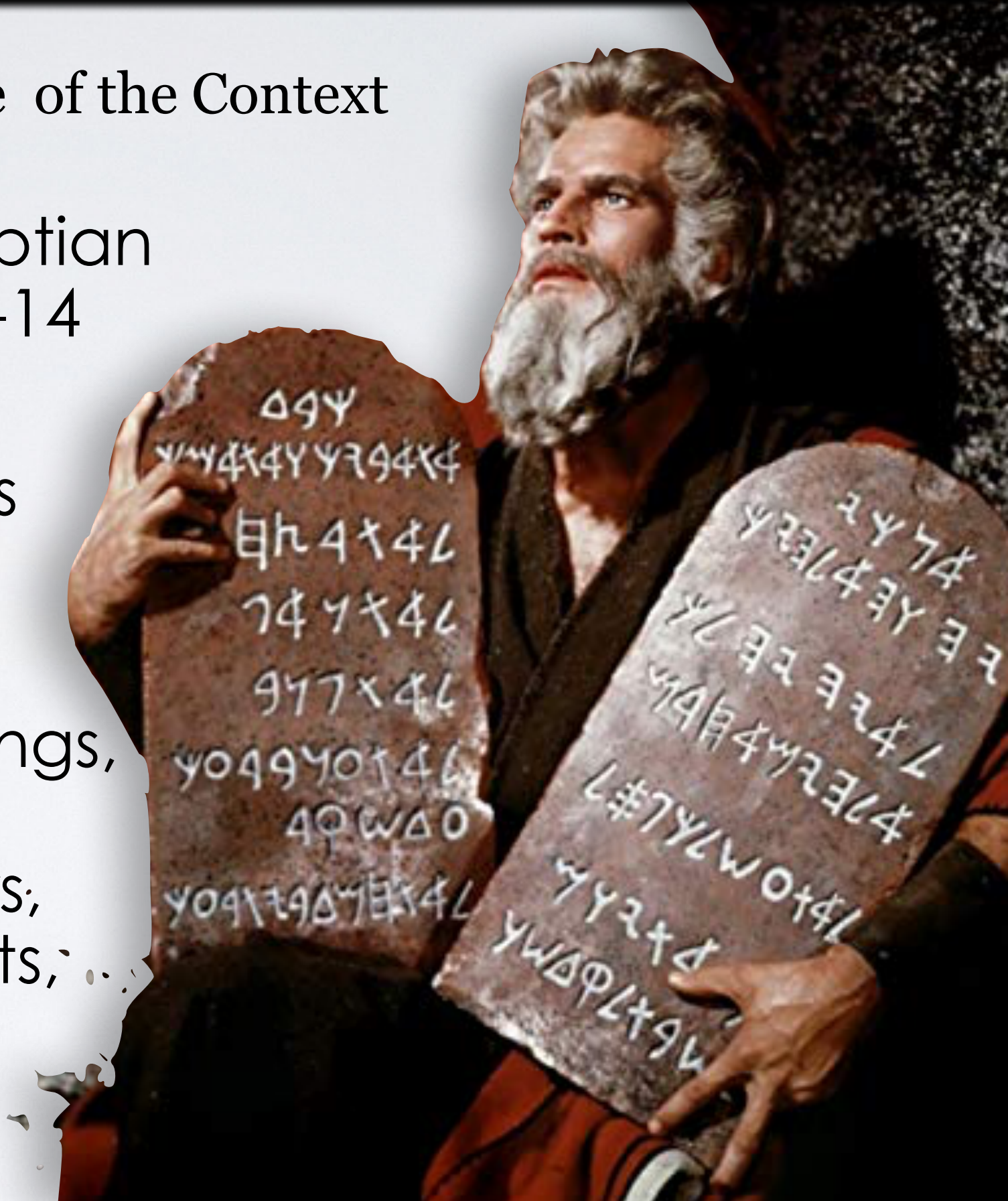
Leviticus 10:1–11 (NKJV)

⁷ You shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die, for the anointing oil of the Lord *is* upon you.” And they did according to the word of Moses. ⁸ Then the Lord spoke to Aaron, saying: ⁹ “Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. *It shall be* a statute forever throughout your generations, ¹⁰ that you may distinguish between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean, ¹¹ and that you may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them by the hand of Moses.”

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Background and Importance of the Context

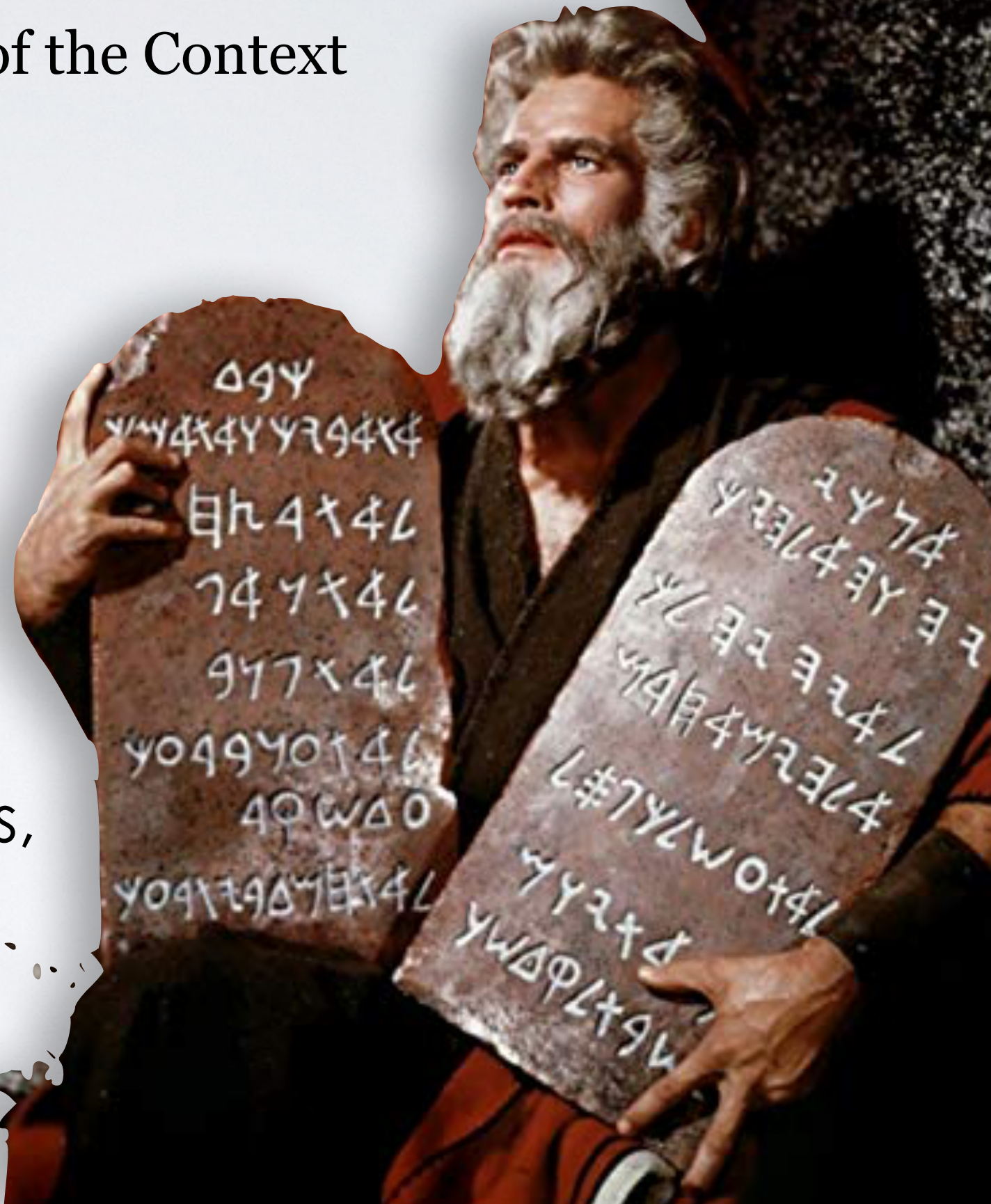
- ▶ Deliverance from Egyptian bondage — Exodus 5-14
- ▶ God gave the Law — Exodus 19,20; Hebrews 12:18-21; (Ex. 20:18)
- ▶ The PATTERN for the tabernacle, its furnishings, the ark, the table, the candlesticks, the altars, garments for the priests, etc. — Exodus 25-29



Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Background and Importance of the Context

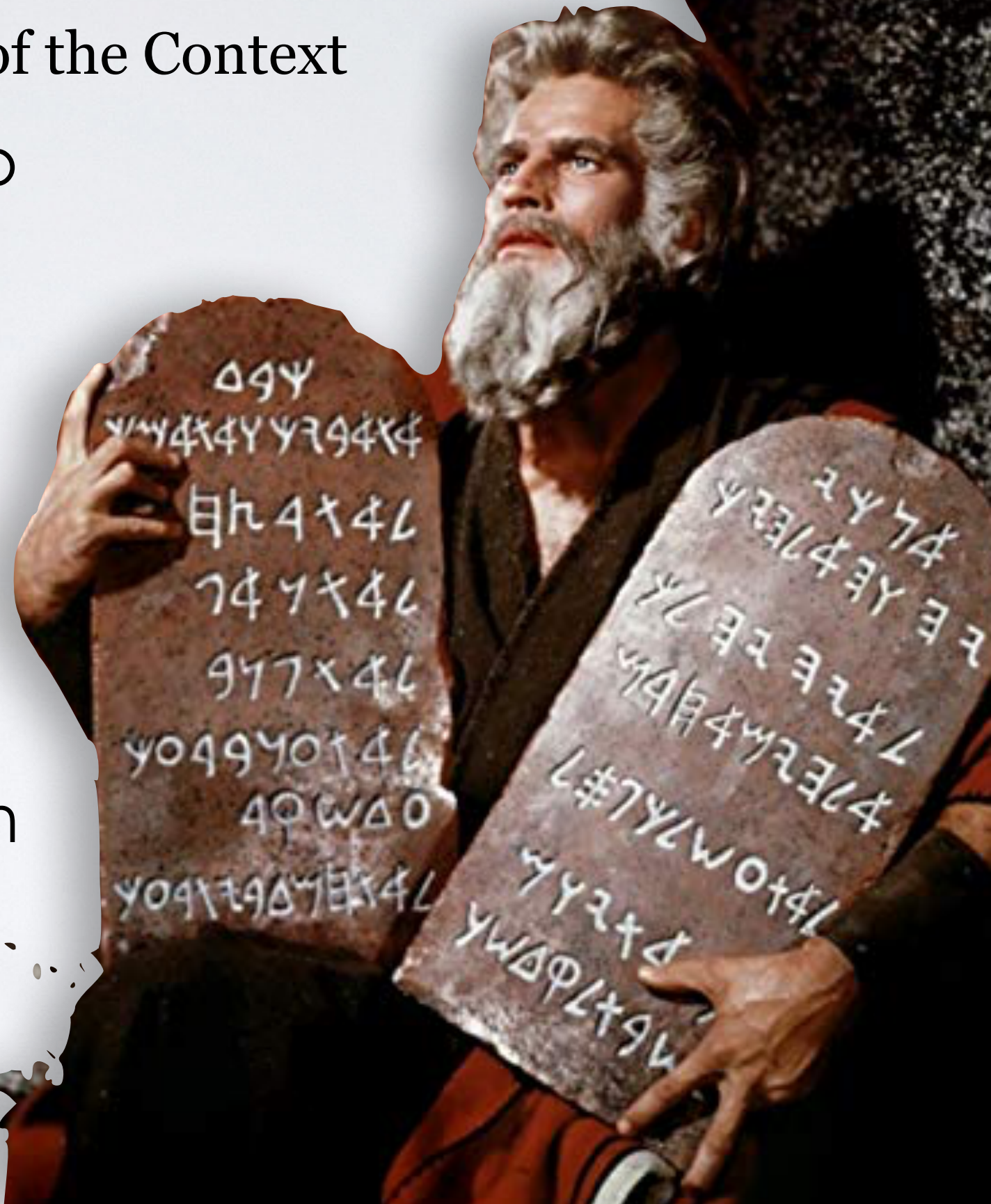
- ▶ Instructions pertaining to the burning of incense, purification and the making of holy things — Exodus 30,31
- ▶ Golden Calf Interlude — Exodus 32-34
- ▶ The making of the tabernacle, its furnishings, priests clothing, and all things commanded by God according to the pattern — Exodus 35-40



Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Background and Importance of the Context

- ▶ Regulations pertaining to the sacrificial system — Leviticus 1-7
- ▶ The consecration of Aaron and his sons as priest according to Exodus 29 — Leviticus 8
- ▶ The priestly ministry of Aaron and his sons begin - sacrifices offered - fire from heaven consumes the the burnt offering — Leviticus 9

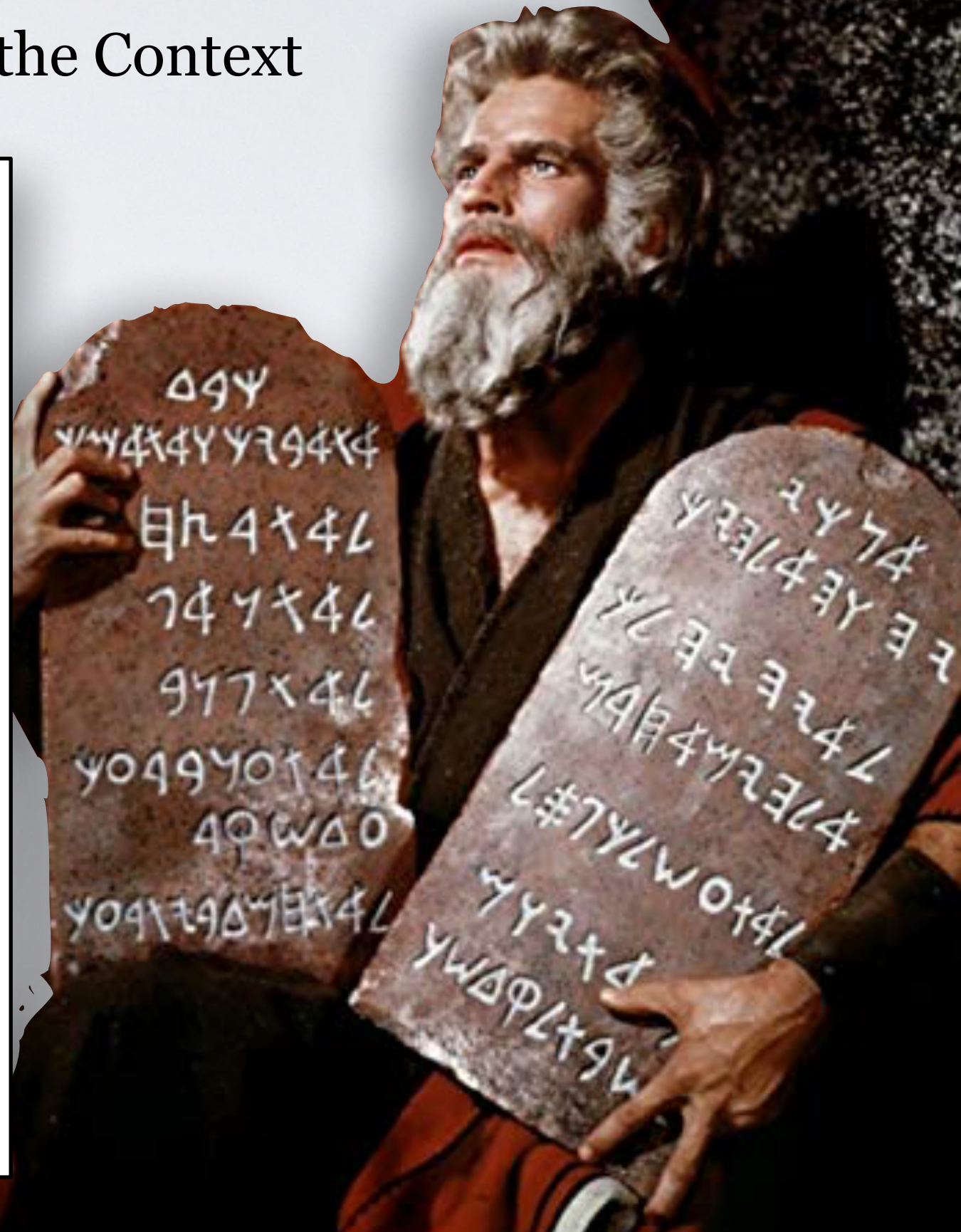


Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Background and Importance of the Context

Leviticus 9:23–24 (NKJV)

²³ And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of meeting, and came out and blessed the people. Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people,
²⁴ and fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar. When all the people saw *it*, they shouted and fell on their faces.



STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu Would Say

**God means
what HE SAYS -**

(God's silence is NOT permissive!)

Leviticus 10:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.



Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

God means what HE SAYS -

(God's silence is NOT permissive!)

Leviticus 10:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.



God had **REVEALED** what He **wanted** - He specified the source of fire — (9:24; 16:12)



There are MANY who try to escape the clear implications of this passage by attempting to explain away the stated purpose for God's judgment.



The “**strange fire**” was unauthorized by God: “...which he commanded them not” (Lev. 10:1).

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

God means what HE SAYS -

(God's silence is NOT permissive!)



Leviticus 10:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.

► **We do NOT have the liberty to add to, take from or ALTER God's words — Deut 4:2**

- **Cain** – (Gen. 4:7) – Heb 11:4
- **Moses** – (Num 20:8-24)
- **King Saul** – (1 Sam. 13 & 15)
- **David's ox cart** – (1 Chr. 13:7-12; 15:2)
- **Jeroboam** – (1 Kings 12:25-33)
- **Uzziah** – (2 Chr. 26:16-23)

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

God means what HE SAYS -

(God's silence is NOT permissive!)

**We cannot know
the mind of God
except through
revelation**

1 Cor 2:10, 11, 14

Eph 3:3-5

Isaiah 55:8,9

ROMANS 10:17

Faith
comes by
HEARING

**God has
revealed
everything He
wants from us**

2 Pet 1:3;

2 Tim 3:16,17

Jude 3

Walking by faith means walking by what God has said

2 Cor. 5:7; 1 Cor. 4:6; Gal. 1:6-9

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

God means what HE SAYS -

(God's silence is NOT permissive!)

Leviticus 10:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.

- ▶ The God of the O.T. and the God of the N.T. is the same God (Acts 5:1-11; Col. 3:17; Heb. 10:26-31).
- ▶ If we truly respect, love & trust God we will worship as HE instructs — we will seek to praise Him AS HE HAS spoken (John 4:22-24; 2 Tim 3:16,17; 1 Cor. 4:6).

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

God means what HE SAYS -

(God's silence is NOT permissive!)

Leviticus 10:1 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them.

- ▶ When we become the designers & determiners of the how, when & where we worship, we have diverted our worship away from God & towards ourselves.
- ▶ What is the difference between Nadab & Abihu's use of "strange fire" & those who profess to be Christians who exchange the simple instructions of the NT with the pomp, liturgy, extravagance, entertainment, & emotionally based practices of contemporary worshippers?

STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu Would Say

**God MUST Be
Respected -**

(God's Holiness Is To Be Taken Seriously)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)

² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

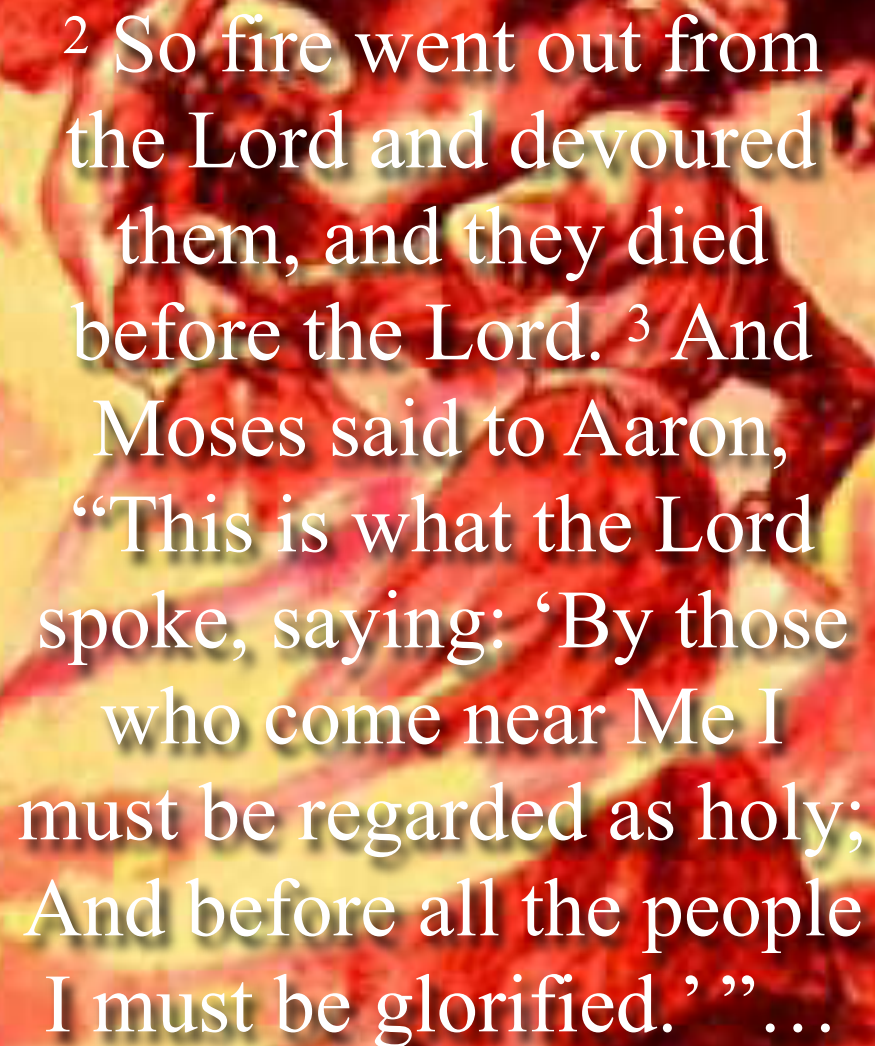


Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

God MUST Be Respected

(God's Holiness Is To Be Taken Seriously)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)



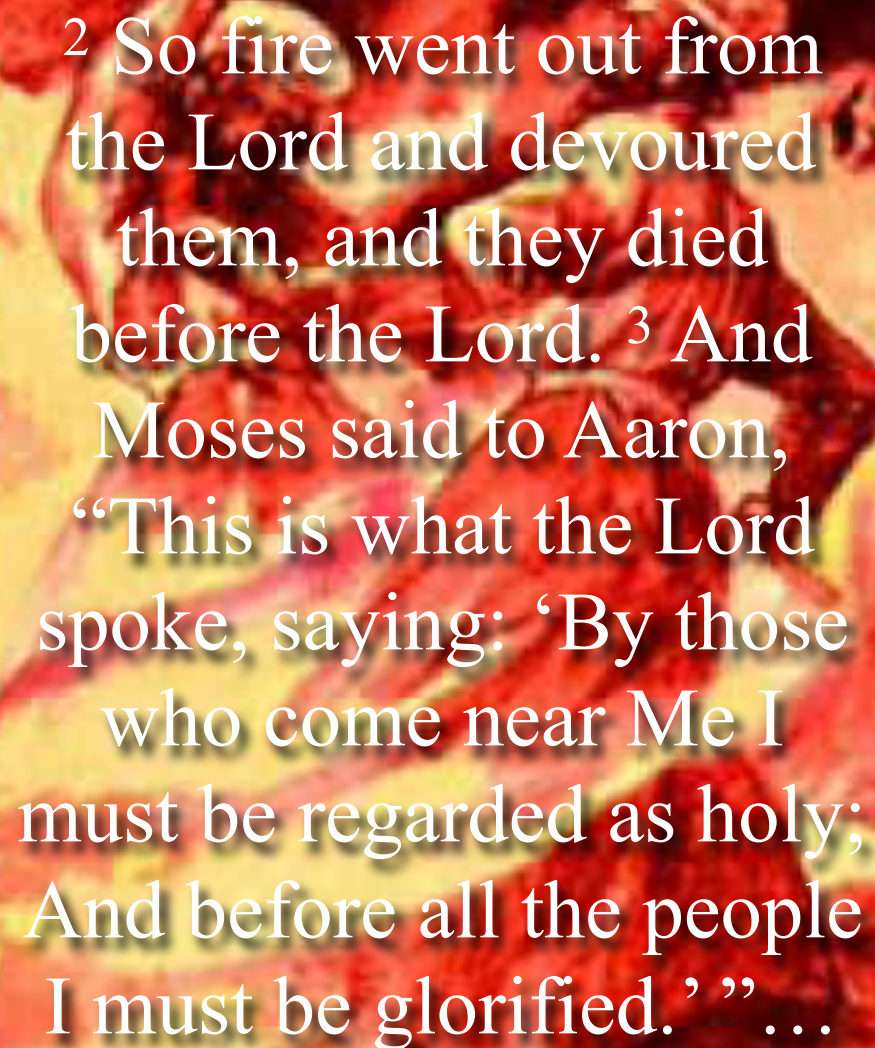
² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

- ▶ They DISRESPECTED God's holiness by not following His instructions - therefore they suffered the consequences — (vs. 1,2)
- ▶ The principle Moses explicitly states in verse 3 is just as true today as it was then! (in fact, there is a sense in which it would apply even MORE) — Ex. 19:22; Ps. 89:7; 119:120; Is. 52:11. Eze. 20:41; 42:13. He. 10:26-32; 12:28, 29; John 2:13-17
- ▶ God should never be addressed in a casual or trivial way (Psa. 89:7).

God MUST Be Respected

(God's Holiness Is To Be Taken Seriously)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)



² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

- ▶ It is essential that we approach the presence of God in our lives and worship with reverence (Lev. 10:3; Rom 12:1, 2; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; Eccl. 5:1-5).
- ▶ Only the holy, (those cleansed & obedient), can approach God: “Be holy, for I am holy” (Lev. 11:44, 45; 19:2; 20:7, 26; 21:6, 8; 1 Peter 1:13-17; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1).

STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu Would Say

**Worship In TRUTH
Not just Feelings**

(Emotions Must Be Present In Worship,
But Disciplined By Truth)

Leviticus 10:1–2 (NKJV)

¹ Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. ² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

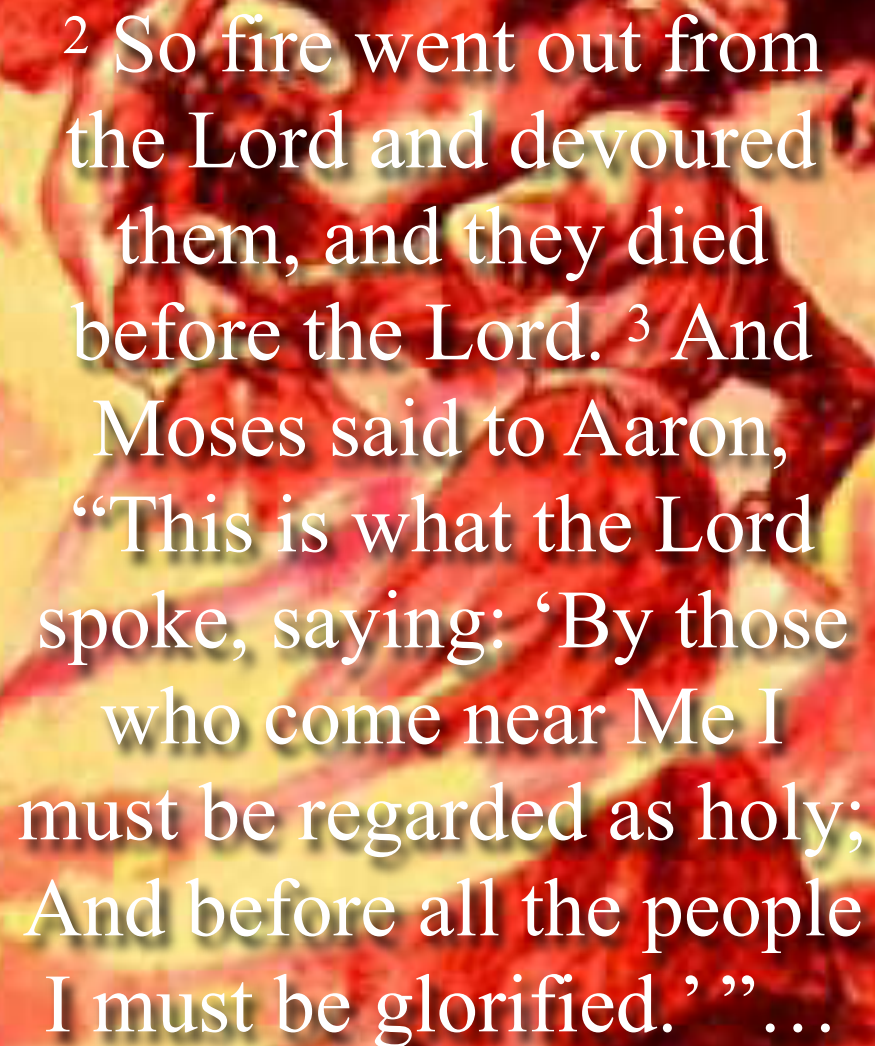


Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Worship In TRUTH Not just Feelings

(Emotions Must Be Present In Worship, But Disciplined By Truth)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)



² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

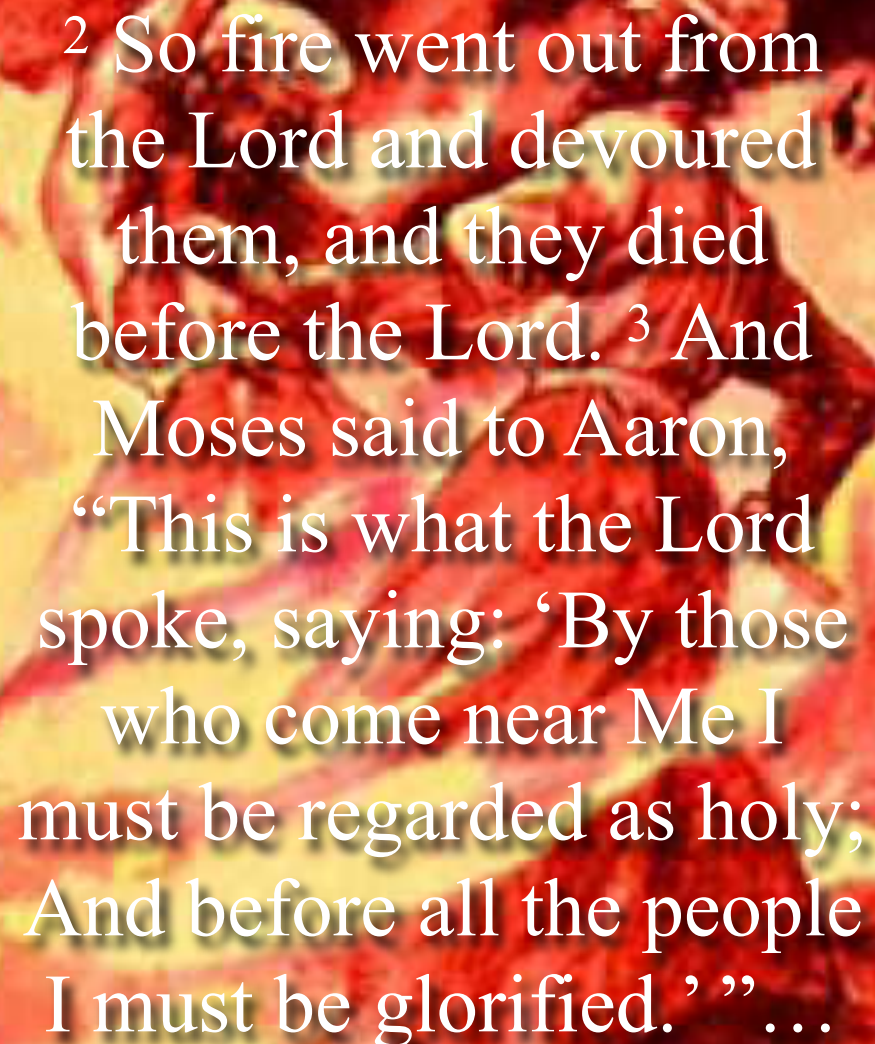
- ▶ Time of great sacrifice to the Lord (Lev. 9:1-21).
- ▶ The glory of the Lord appeared (Lev. 9:22, 23).
- ▶ Fire from God consumed the sacrifice (Lev. 9:24).
- ▶ They would tell us it is appropriate in light of God’s glory and majesty to worship God passionately, but we must be disciplined by the truth.

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Worship In TRUTH Not just Feelings

(Emotions Must Be Present In Worship, But Disciplined By Truth)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)



² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

Proverbs 14:12 (NKJV)

¹² There is a way *that seems* right to a man, But its end *is* the way of death.

Jeremiah 10:23 (NKJV)

²³ O Lord, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu Would Say

Grace Doesn't

Allow Disobedience

(God Is Gracious, BUT His Grace Must Not
Be Taken For Granted.)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)

² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them,
and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to
Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By
those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy;
And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

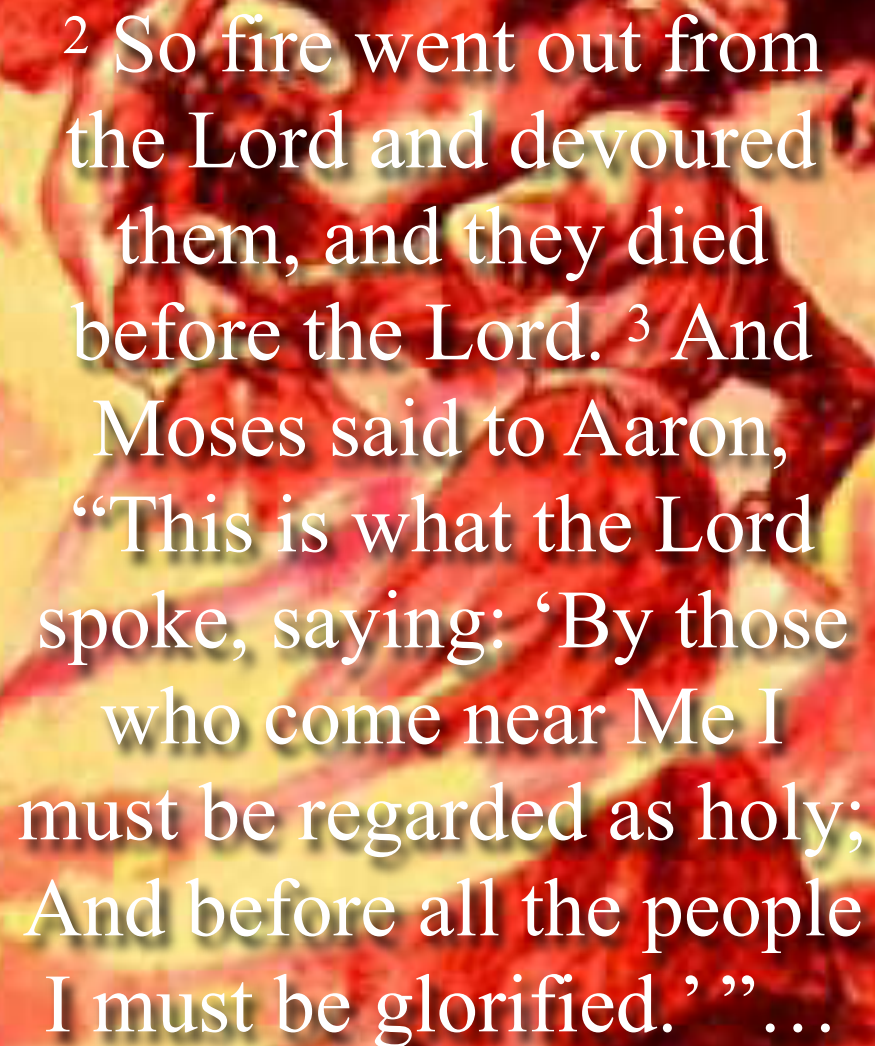


Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Grace Doesn't Allow Disobedience

(God Is Gracious, **BUT** His Grace Must Not Be Taken For Granted.)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)



² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

- ▶ God blessed them with the opportunity to serve as priests by His grace (Lev. 8:1-5, 36).
- ▶ However, they moved away from obedience to rebellion (Lev. 10:1, 2).
- ▶ They would tell us to rejoice in His grace with thankfulness, respect, & submission — (Galatians 2:20,21; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 2:11-14)

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

Grace Doesn't Allow Disobedience

(God Is Gracious, **BUT** His Grace Must Not Be Taken For Granted.)

Leviticus 10:2–3 (NKJV)

² So fire went out from the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. ³ And Moses said to Aaron, “This is what the Lord spoke, saying: ‘By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; And before all the people I must be glorified.’ ”...

▶ Only those who believe God enough to do what He says receives His grace — (Eph 2:8,9)

- Israel – (Josh. 6; Heb. 11:30)
- Naaman — (2 Kings 5)
- Christians — (Acts 2:38; etc.)

▶ Only those who believe God enough to do what He says abide in His grace —

- Noah – (Gen. 6:8ff; Heb 11:7)
- Israel – (Exo. 14:30,31; 1 Cor. 10)
- Christians – (John 15:1-10)

STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu Would Say

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

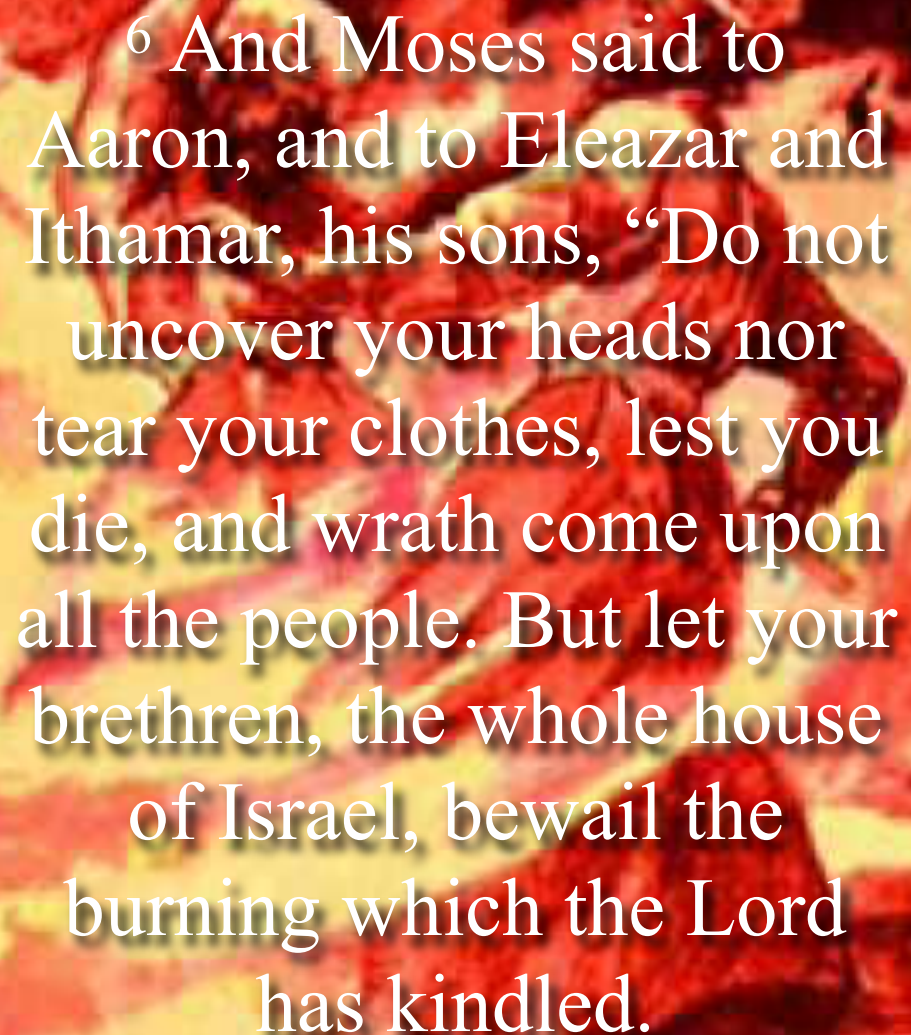


Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)



⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

- ▶ They had known God's law, instructions about the tabernacle, and sacrifices – all pointing to God's holiness, yet they acted without authority and violated God's holiness.
- ▶ We too have tasted the good word of God and his grace – how will we respond to God's truth? — (Romans 2:2-11; Acts 17:31; 2 Thess. 1:6-9).

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)

⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

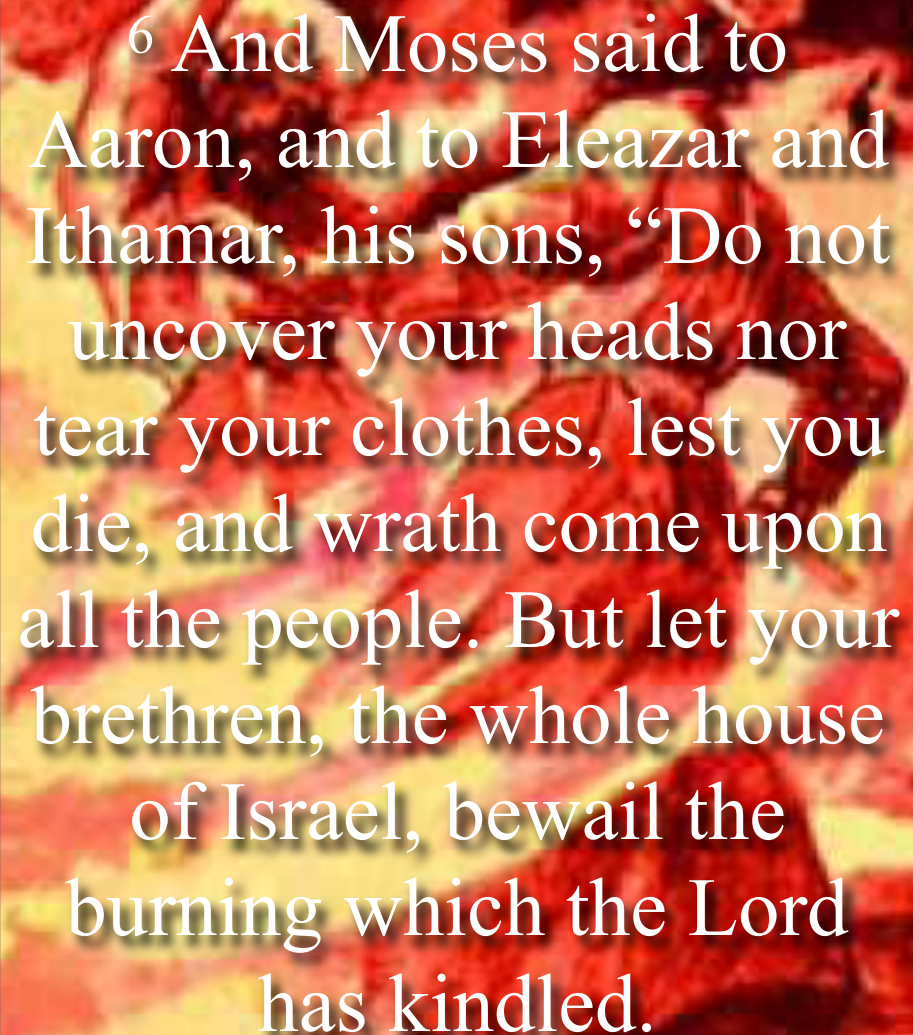
- ▶ Many argue God would be UNJUST if he cast all who do not obey into an everlasting hell —
- ▶ Our emotional feelings, nor our human philosophies are worthy to judge the righteousness of God in regard to His dealings with the disobedient — Rom. 2:5; 3:5; 9:14-20
- ▶ All LOST in hell will be there because of their own choices — Mat. 7:13,14; Rom. 2:5-11

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)



⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

John 3:16–17 (NKJV)

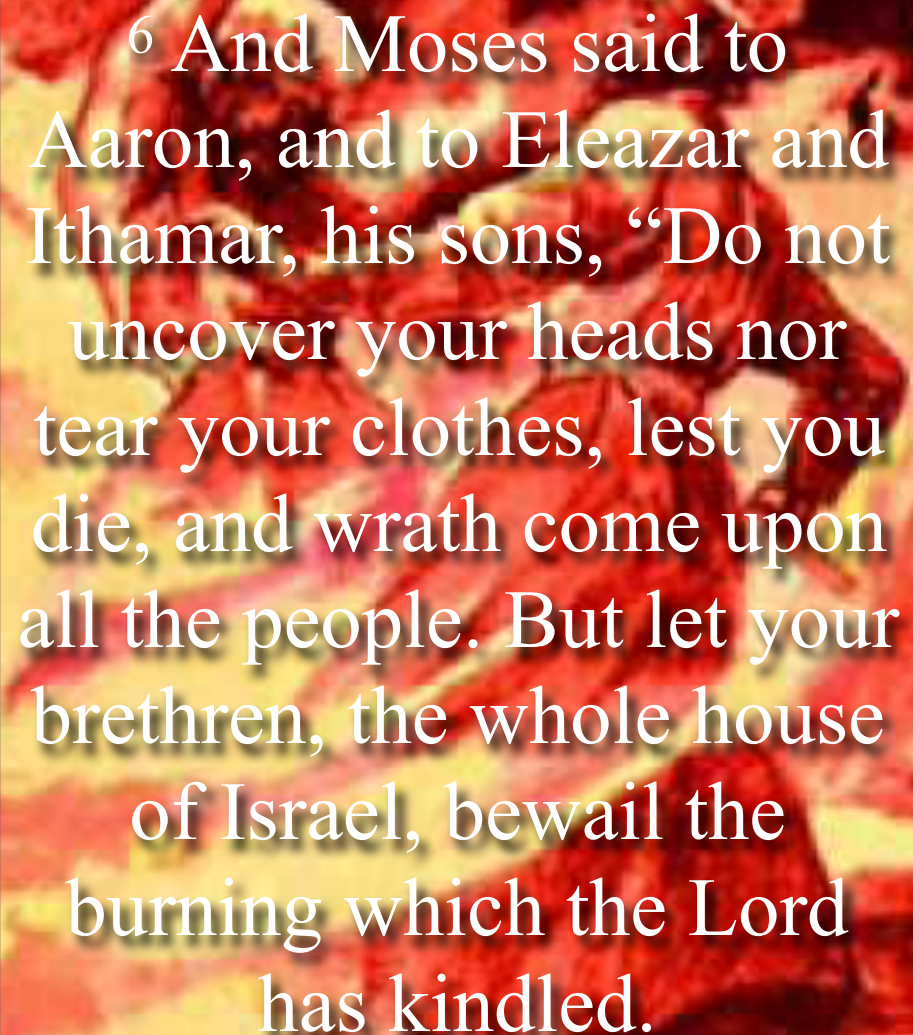
¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)



⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

Mark 16:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

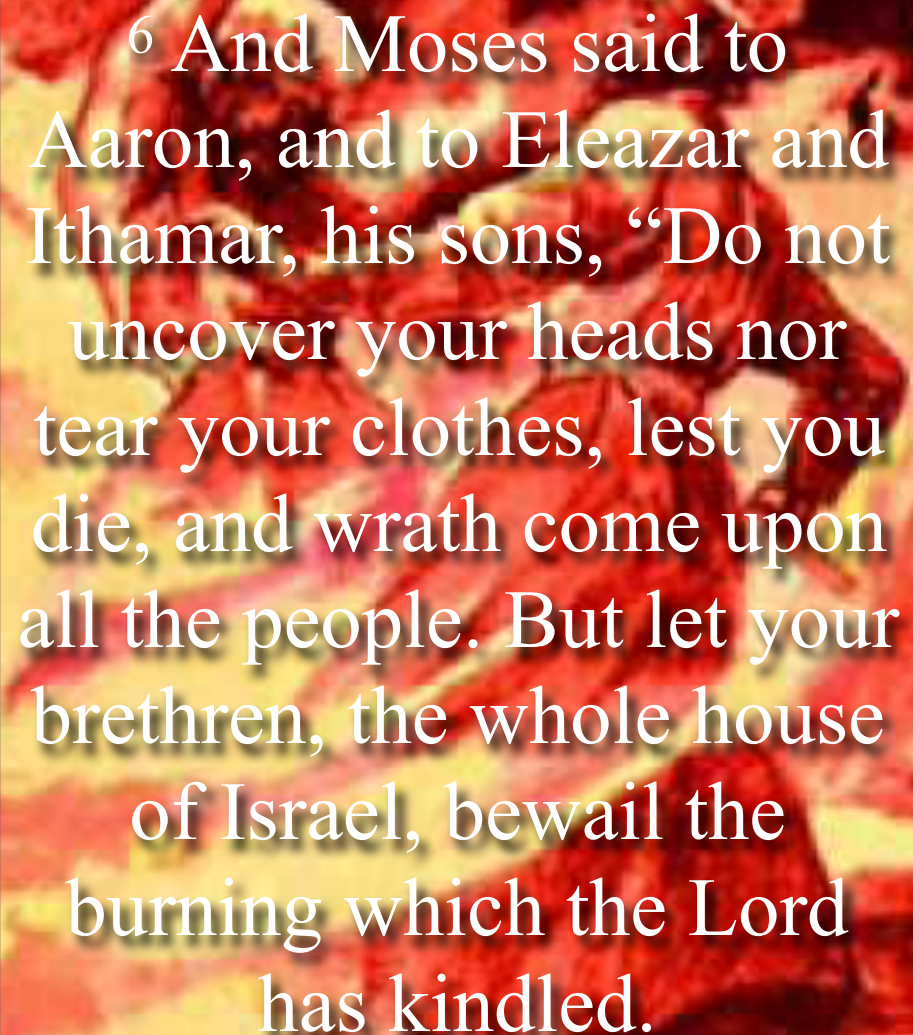
¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)



⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

Acts 2:37–38 (NKJV)

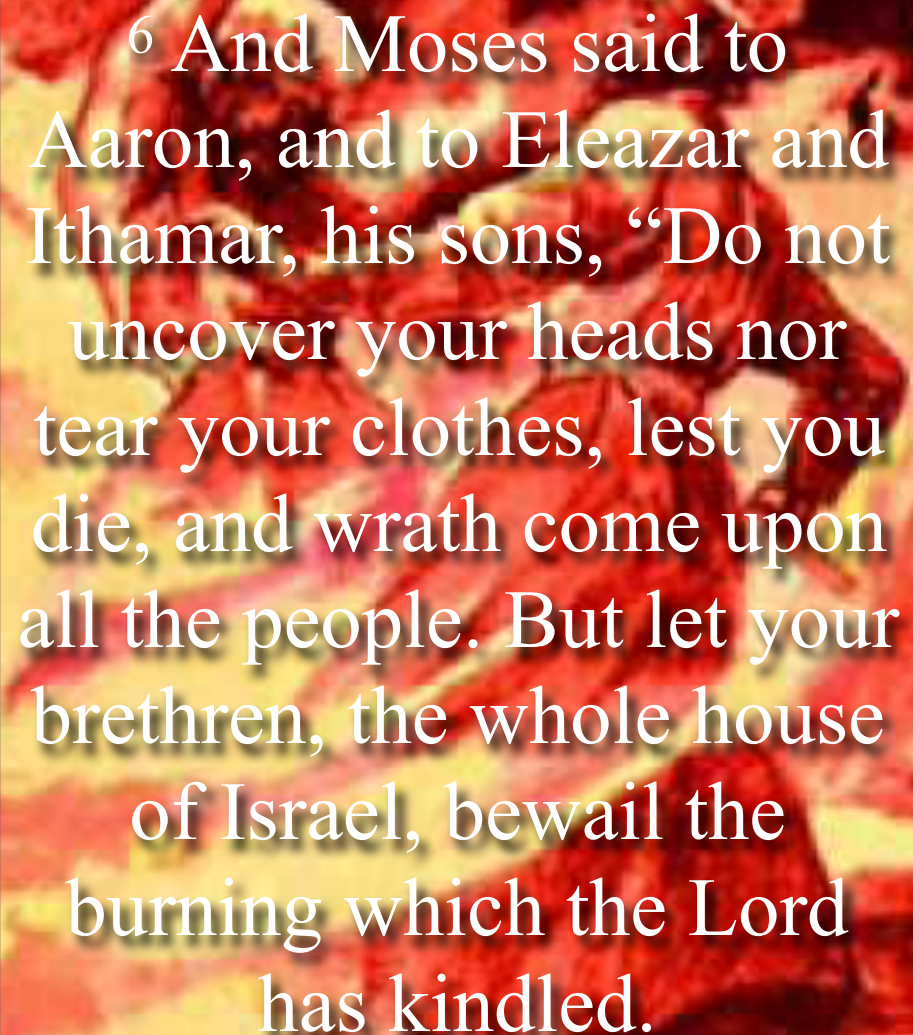
³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” ³⁸ Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)



⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

1 Timothy 2:3–6 (NKJV)

³ For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵

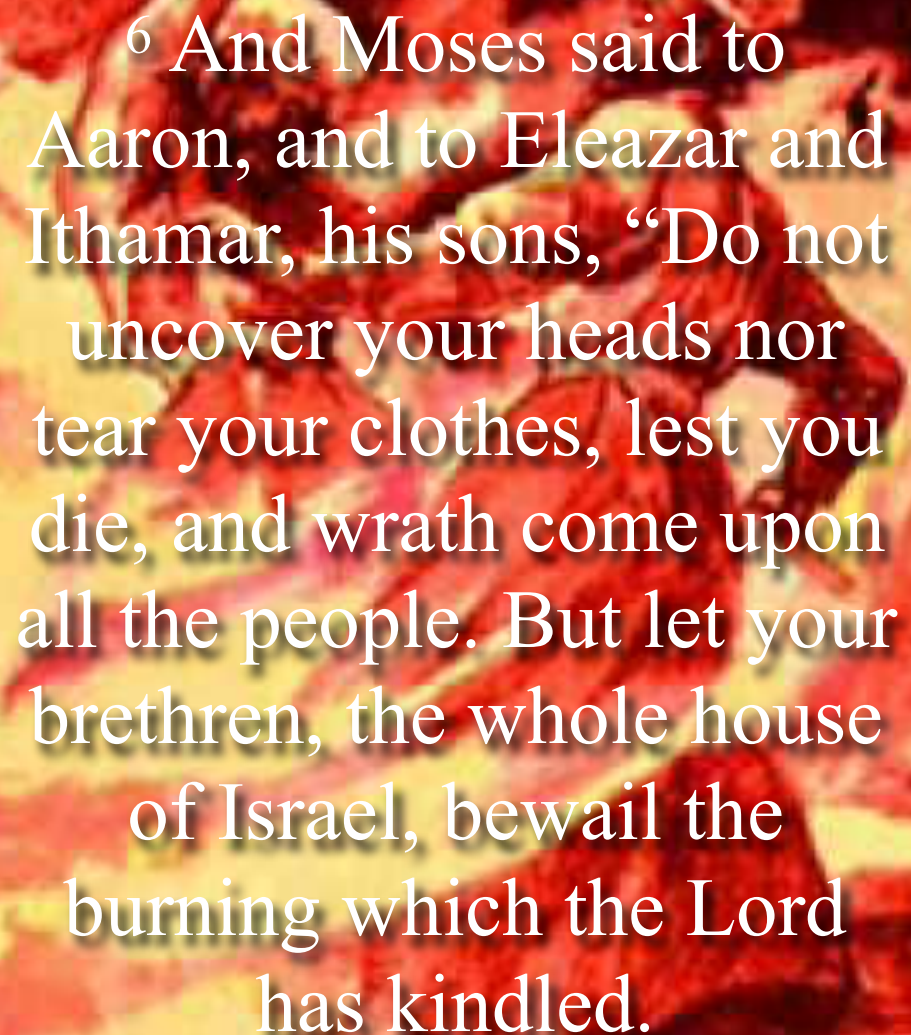
For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)



⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

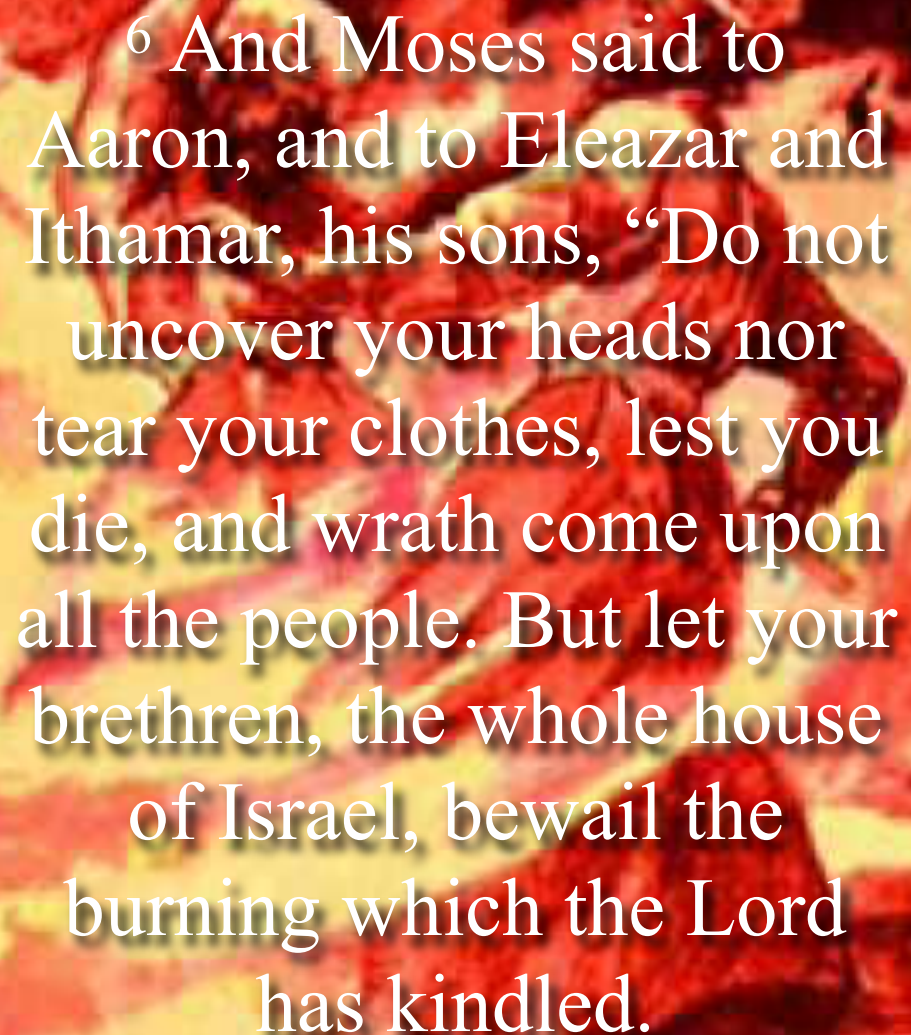
⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. ...

Nadab & Abihu *What Would They Say?*

GOD WAS / IS RIGHT

(God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)

Leviticus 10:6 (NKJV)



⁶ And Moses said to Aaron, and to Eleazar and Ithamar, his sons, “Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, lest you die, and wrath come upon all the people. But let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord has kindled.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; ¹⁵ and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation

STRANGE FIRE

Nadab & Abihu Would Say

- 👁️ **God means what HE SAYS** - (God's silence is NOT permissive!)
- 👁️ **God MUST Be Respected** - (God's Holiness Is To Be Taken Seriously)
- 👁️ **Worship In TRUTH Not just Feelings** — (Emotions YES, But Disciplined By Truth)
- 👁️ **Grace Doesn't Allow Disobedience** — (God Is Gracious, BUT His Grace Must Not Be Taken For Granted.)
- 👁️ **GOD WAS RIGHT** — (God's Righteous Judgment Was Just!)



Leviticus 10:1-11

STRANGE FIRE

What Would

Nadab & Abihu

Say Today?

Charts by Don McClain

Preached April 14, 2019

West 65th Street church of Christ/ P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219 / 501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

Our Website: w65stchurchofchrist.com

Hebrews 12:25–29 (NKJV)

²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks.

For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more *shall we not escape* if we turn away from Him who *speaks*

from heaven, ²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, “*Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven.*” ²⁷ Now this, “*Yet once more,*”

indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Hebrews 12:25–29 (NKJV)

28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. 29 For our God *is* a consuming fire.