

## Leviticus 10:1-20 YeHoVaH, Moses & Aaron's Family

The relationship between YeHoVaH, Moses, Aaron, and his Family was a continually evolving relationship. YeHoVaH called Moses while he was tending his father-in-law's sheep in the far side of the desert at Horeb, the mountain of God.

Aaron the Levite, Moses' brother, was instructed by YeHoVaH to go into the desert to meet Moses at the mountain of God. Aaron was selected by YeHoVaH to be the first High Priest and Aaron's sons to be the Priests. Thus, making Aaron and his offspring the Priestly Family for generations to come.

Specific Instructions were given to Moses to give Aaron and his sons to follow. Aaron and his sons became responsible for teaching the Children of Israel and their generations the Commandments of YeHoVaH.

In this portion of Leviticus, the consequences of not following the Instructions, as they had been given, produced deadly results and further Instructions for the Priestly Family.

Aaron's line, the Priestly family, consisted of Aaron, his wife Elisheba, Aaron's four sons Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar.

There is the probability that there were daughters of Aaron that are not mentioned in Scripture.

Ex 6:23 And Aaron took him Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Naashon, to wife; and she bare him Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar

On this particular day in this portion of Leviticus, Aaron's family would be reduced.

In the previous Chapter, the entire congregation had witnessed the anointing and installation of the High Priest and Priests.

Lev 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.

Strange fire?

Aaron's sons did something they were either not commanded to do or were commanded not to do.

It was Aaron's role to burn the incense on the Altar of Incense.

They had been instructed concerning strange incense but not strange fire.

Ex 30:1 And thou shalt make an altar to burn incense upon: of shittim wood shalt thou make it.

Ex 30:2 A cubit shall be the length thereof, and a cubit the breadth thereof; foursquare shall it be: and two cubits shall be the height thereof: the horns thereof shall be of the same.

Ex 30:3 And thou shalt overlay it with pure gold, the top thereof, and the sides thereof round about, and the horns thereof; and thou shalt make unto it a crown of gold round about.

Ex 30:4 And two golden rings shalt thou make to it under the crown of it, by the two corners thereof, upon the two sides of it shalt thou make it; and they shall be for places for the staves to bear it withal.

Ex 30:5 And thou shalt make the staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold.

Ex 30:6 And thou shalt put it before the veil that is by the ark of the testimony, before the mercy seat that is over the testimony, where I will meet with thee.

Ex 30:7 And Aaron shall burn thereon sweet incense every morning: when he dresseth the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it.

Ex 30:8 And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.

Why YeHoVaH burned them alive for doing something, with no instructions to the contrary, would be merciless and unjustifiable. In other words, they had to know that what they were doing was not authorized or not done properly.

YeHoVaH had been meticulously instructing Moses to instruct Aaron and his sons the dos and don'ts of the Tabernacle and the potential penalties associated.

YeHoVaH made it clear in Exodus 30.

Ex 30:9 Ye shall offer no strange incense thereon, nor burnt sacrifice, nor meat offering; neither shall ye pour drink offering thereon.

Lev 10:2 And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

Two dead bodies were in the Tabernacle!

Lev 10:3 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.

What had YeHoVaH said?

Back at Mt. Sinai when Moses gathered the people at the foot of the mountain, YeHoVaH had warned them about approaching Him.

Ex 19:22 And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.

Aaron held his peace. Aaron kept quiet as Levites removed the dead bodies of Aaron's two older sons, Nadab and Abihu.

Lev 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.

Lev 10:5 So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said.

Coats – 03801 כֶּתוֹנֶת kethoneth {keth-o'-neth} or כִּטְוֹנֶת kuttoneth {koot-to'-neth}

Meaning: 1) tunic, under-garment 1a) a long shirt-like garment usually of linen

Usage: AV - coat 23, garment 5, robe 1; 29

Lev 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.

Nadab and Abihu performed only one service and it was unauthorized, causing them to be killed in the presence of YeHoVaH.

Nadab and Abihu were burnt alive in the Tabernacle without being consumed for they were carried out in their coats.

They fell dead in the Tabernacle.

Two dead bodies were in the Tabernacle and had to be removed, but that event did not stop the Tabernacle Service or render the Tabernacle unclean because it was YeHoVaH's doing.

The actions of the Priests that remained could have caused the wrath of YeHoVaH to come up on the whole assembly of Israel.

Consider this:

- Aaron and his wife had raised their sons to be of age to serve in the Tabernacle.
- Aaron and his wife had invested in their sons financially, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.
- Aaron and his wife had most likely become attached to their two sons who probably filled a prominent space and role in their lives as most sons would.
- Aaron and his wife suffered the loss of not one, but two sons, in one day in the Tabernacle service to YeHoVaH.
- YeHoVaH killed their sons and only their mother was allowed to mourn.
- Aaron and his other two sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, suffered a tremendous loss, were not given the day off, and were not allowed to mourn their loss.

Lev 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.

Moses was not allowed to mourn the loss of his nephews' either. In the midst of the loss, Moses receives further instructions from YeHoVaH to give to Aaron and his sons, the Priests.

Lev 10:8 And the LORD spake unto Aaron, saying,

Lev 10:9 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:

Drinking wine or strong drink prior to going before YeHoVaH into the Tabernacle was forbidden and could result in death.

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

The Priests were responsible for putting differences between, distinguishing from, and separating themselves from unholy and unclean things.

Lev 10:11 And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the LORD hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

The Priests were responsible for teaching the Children of Israel all of the Statutes of YeHoVaH.

Statutes – 02706 קְחוּ חֹק {kchoke}

Meaning: 1) statute, ordinance, limit, something prescribed, due 1a) prescribed task 1b) prescribed portion 1c) action prescribed (for oneself), resolve 1d) prescribed due 1e) prescribed limit, boundary 1f) enactment, decree, ordinance

1f1) specific decree 1f2) law in general 1g) enactments, statutes 1g1) conditions 1g2) enactments 1g3) decrees 1g4) civil enactments prescribed by God

Usage: AV - statute 87, ordinance 9, decree 7, due 4, law 4, portion 3, bounds 2, custom 2, appointed 1, commandments 1, misc 7; 127

Lev 10:12 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:

Lev 10:13 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.

Moses was commanded by YeHoVaH to instruct Aaron, Eleazar and Ithamar.

Lev 10:14 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.

It seems that Aaron also had daughters although we do not know their names or ages. This verse could also be speaking to future daughters of the Priestly Families.

Lev 10:15 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.

Lev 10:16 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, Moses was angry.

Lev 10:17 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?

Lev 10:18 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.

Aaron's response was that of not being worthy to eat the Offering and that YeHoVaH would not have accepted it if he had.

Lev 10:19 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 today, should it have been accepted in the sight of the LORD?

Lev 10:20 And when Moses heard that, he was content.