

# Leviticus 10:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

This verse falls within the section on **Nadab and Abihu's Unauthorized Fire**. The tragic death of Aaron's sons for offering unauthorized fire demonstrates the severity of approaching God improperly.

The Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel, offering sacrifices and maintaining the tabernacle. This prefigured Christ's superior priesthood after the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 9-10 explains how Christ's once-for-all sacrifice supersedes the repeated Levitical offerings, providing permanent cleansing from sin.

## Historical Context

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The tragic death of Aaron's sons for offering unauthorized fire demonstrates the severity of approaching God improperly. Chapters 8-10 describe the priesthood's consecration and early ministry. Aaron and his sons received special anointing for their mediatorial role between God and Israel. The tragic account of Nadab and

Abihu (ch. 10) demonstrates that approaching God requires reverence and obedience. Ancient Near Eastern cultures had various sacrificial systems, but Israel's sacrificial worship was unique in its ethical foundation, monotheistic framework, and emphasis on atonement rather than appeasement. Unlike pagan rituals focused on manipulating deities, Israel's sacrifices acknowledged God's sovereignty and sought reconciliation based on His gracious provision. Ancient sacrificial texts from cultures surrounding Israel demonstrate the widespread practice of animal sacrifice, but Israel's system uniquely emphasized moral atonement over magical efficacy.

## **Related Passages**

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## **Study Questions**

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1. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
2. How does understanding the purpose behind God's laws help you obey Him from the heart rather than mere duty?
3. In what practical ways should this verse influence your church life, family relationships, or personal integrity?

## Interlinear Text

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מִחֲתַת וְ	אִישׁ	וְאַבִּיהוּ	וְנָדָב	אֶל הָרֶן	בְּנֵי	וַיִּקַּח וְ
of them his censer	either	and Abihu	And Nadab	of Aaron	the sons	took
H4289	H376	H30	H5070	H175	H1121	H3947
וַיִּקְרַח יָבֹו	קִטְרֶת	עַל יָדֶהּ	וַיִּשֶׂא יָמֹו	אֵשׁ	בָּהֶן	וַיָּבֵן וְ
thereon and offered	incense	H5921	and put	fire	therein	and put
H7126	H7004		H7760	H784	H2004	H5414
אֲתָם:	צִוָּה	לֹא	אֲשֶׁר	זָרָה	אֵשׁ	יְהוָה
H853	which he commanded	H3808	H834	strange	fire	the LORD
	H6680			H2114	H784	H3068
						H6440

## Additional Cross-References

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**Numbers 26:61** (References Lord): And Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the LORD.

**Leviticus 16:12** (References Lord): And he shall take a censer full of burning coals of fire from off the altar before the LORD, and his hands full of sweet incense beaten small, and bring it within the veil:

**Deuteronomy 12:32** (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

**Numbers 16:46** (References Lord): And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.

**Exodus 24:1** (References Lord): And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.

**Exodus 6:23** (Parallel theme): And Aaron took him Elisheba, daughter of Amminadab, sister of Naashon, to wife; and she bare him Nadab, and Abihu, Eleazar, and Ithamar.

**Psalms 141:2** (Parallel theme): Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

**Exodus 28:1** (Parallel theme): And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

**Exodus 24:9** (Parallel theme): Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel:

**Leviticus 22:9** (References Lord): They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, lest they bear sin for it, and die therefore, if they profane it: I the LORD do sanctify them.

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