

# Leviticus 10:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

## Analysis

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**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:**

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 central theme of Leviticus is God's holiness and the call for His people to be holy. The Hebrew word qadosh (קָדוֹשׁ) means 'set apart' or 'sacred,' emphasizing both separation from sin and consecration to God's purposes. 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. The five main offerings (burnt, grain, peace, sin, and guilt) addressed different aspects of relationship with God, all fulfilled in Christ's comprehensive sacrifice.

What Leviticus portrayed through types and shadows, Christ fulfilled in reality through His incarnation, perfect life, atoning death, and resurrection.

## 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. The tabernacle's design parallels ancient Near Eastern temple architecture, yet its portable nature and absence of divine images distinguished it from pagan temples.

## Related Passages

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

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's holiness, as revealed in this verse, shape your understanding of worship, obedience, and daily living?
2. How does Christ's superior priesthood, prefigured in this verse, assure you of access to God and effective intercession?
3. What does this verse teach about the costliness of true worship and dedication to God?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֵלֶּא לְעֵזֶר וְאֵל אֶחָד רְאֵל  
spake And Moses unto Aaron and unto Eleazar  
H1696 H4872 H413 H175 H413 H499 H413

בְּמִנְחָה הַלְּבָבָת רְתַת אֶת מִתְמָמָה רָא  
and unto Ithamar his sons that remaineth Take the meat offering  
H385 H1121 H3498 H3947 H853 H4503

אֶל מִצְבָּת רְתַת מְאֵשׁ וְבְנֵי הָרָא  
that remaineth made by fire of the LORD and eat it without leaven beside  
H3498 H801 H3068 H398 H4682 H681

הָוֶה קָדְשָׁ יְמִינָה כִּי בְמִזְבֵּחַ  
the altar for it is most for it is most H1931  
H4196 H3588 H6944 H6944

## Additional Cross-References

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**Leviticus 21:22** (Holy): He shall eat the bread of his God, both of the most holy, and of the holy.

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