

# Leviticus 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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**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.**

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.

The New Testament reveals that Christ's sacrifice accomplishes what the Levitical system could only symbolize—complete forgiveness and restoration of relationship with God.

## 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 Israelite dietary laws in Leviticus 11 have no exact parallel in surrounding cultures, though some ancient cultures had food taboos, suggesting unique revelation rather than borrowed customs.

## **Related Passages**

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## **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. In what ways does this verse challenge contemporary cultural values or your personal attitudes?
3. How does this verse reveal God's character, and how should that revelation shape your relationship with Him?

## Interlinear Text

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לֵאמֹר	מֹשֶׁה	אֶל	אַהֲרֹן:	הוא	אֲשֶׁר	דָּבַר
said	Then Moses	H413	And Aaron	H1931	H834	spake
H559	H4872		H175			H1696
יְהוָה הִוא	לֵאמֹר	בְּקִרְבִּי	אֶקֱדֹשׁ	וְעַל		
This is it that the LORD	said	in them that come nigh	I will be sanctified			
H3068	H559	H7138	H5921			
פָּנַי	כָּל	הָעָם	אֶכְבֹּד	וַיֵּדֶם	אַהֲרֹן:	
me and before	H3605	all the people	I will be glorified	held his peace	And Aaron	
H6440		H5971	H3513	H1826	H175	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Exodus 19:22** (References Lord): And let the priests also, which come near to the LORD, sanctify themselves, lest the LORD break forth upon them.

**Leviticus 21:6** (Holy): They shall be holy unto their God, and not profane the name of their God: for the offerings of the LORD made by fire, and the bread of their God, they do offer: therefore they shall be holy.

**Isaiah 49:3** (Glory): And said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.

**Numbers 20:12** (References Lord): And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

**1 Samuel 2:30** (References Lord): Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

**Isaiah 52:11** (References Lord): Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD.

**Psalms 89:7** (Holy): God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

**Deuteronomy 32:51** (Holy): Because ye trespassed against me among the children of Israel at the waters of Meribah-Kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin; because ye sanctified me not in the midst of the children of Israel.

**Leviticus 21:21** (References Lord): No man that hath a blemish of the seed of Aaron the priest shall come nigh to offer the offerings of the LORD made by fire: he hath a blemish; he shall not come nigh to offer the bread of his God.

**Leviticus 8:35** (References Lord): Therefore shall ye abide at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation day and night seven days, and keep the charge of the LORD, that ye die not: for so I am commanded.