1. **Intro:**

1.1. Last chapters:

1.1.1. The priest had just been made holy.

1.1.2. Fire just fell from heaven in a positive way (read 9:22-24).

1.1.3. Fire’s about to fall in a bad way!

1.1.4. **William**’s in his commentary said, “Man always & immediately fails when placed in any position of responsibility & glory. Adam, Noah, Moses, Solomon, the Apostles, the Hebrew & Christian churches are all sad proofs of this fact.”

1.2. Great blessings (last chapter) often lead to great temptations! (this chapter)

1.2.1. **Jesus** – after His baptism (voice from heaven) right into the temptations of the wilderness.

1.2.2. **Elijah** – Ran after great victory on Carmel.

1.3. It sure didn’t take long for sin to enter the priesthood.

1.4. Chapter 10 shows us what happens when God’s laws are taken lightly.

1.4.1. God has never taken worship lightly… & neither should we!

1.5. Outline deals with 4 of Aaron’s sons:

1.5.1. Strange Fire! (Nadab & Abihu)(1-11); & A Strange Fast! (Eleazar & Ithamar)

2. **STRANGE FIRE! (1-11)**

2.1. OBEY THE LETTER OF THE LAW! (1-3)

2.1.1. 11 times in ch.8,9 we saw the phrase “the Lord commanded”.

2.1.2. Here Nadab & Abihu did what the lord had not commanded!

2.1.3. **Ex.19:22** “Also let the priests who come near the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them.”

2.2. Their sins? - it was no mere peccadillo! (small fault)

2.2.1. **Everything they did was wrong!**
2.2.2. **Everything they did was wrong!**

2.2.3. [1] The wrong **People** – High Priest only. See - Ex.30:7-10

2.2.4. [2] The wrong **Instruments** – They used their censors & not the High Priests. See - Ex.40:9

2.2.5. [3] The wrong **Time** – Only annually on the Day of Atonement.(16:1)
   2.2.5.1. They appear to have offered it at a time not prescribed – “which he had **not** commanded them”.

2.2.6. [4] The wrong **Authority** – They didn’t consult w/Moses or their Dad – They didn’t follow the word of God.

2.2.7. [5] The wrong **Fire** – They were commanded to use coals from the brazen altar. (See 16:12)
   2.2.7.1. Their incense was not lighted from the altar – “profane fire”.
   2.2.7.2. NIV says “unauthorized fire”.
   2.2.7.3. They were thus saying, “God our fire is as good as yours!”
   2.2.7.4. Interesting - They were “devoured” by the fire; but their priestly raiment was **not** burnt (like the tabernacle was not burnt) (see 5).
   2.2.7.5. God answers false fire with real fire!…& he’s a crack shot every time!
   2.2.7.6. Q: I wonder if we are guilty of “cigarette lighter worship”? {Ie. Coming up with our own flame!}
   2.2.7.7. Pass on the warmth of worship! – It can’t be manufactured! – It should be passed on.
      2.2.7.7.1.”If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head.”

2.2.8. [6] The wrong **Place** – (2) “Before the lord” – seems to imply they pressed (w/in the veil) into the Holy of Holies. (See 16:1,2)

2.2.9. [7] The wrong **Motive** – They didn’t seek to glorify God alone (3).
   2.2.9.1. Must have been **pride** in them. **Their desire wasn’t to sanctify & glorify** the Lord, but to **promote themselves & be important**.

2.2.10. [8] The wrong **Energy** – They seemed to be under the influence of alcohol.
2.3. Those who have access to God have **responsibility** as well as **privilege**.
   2.3.1. Verse 3 is our **central theme** stating the 2 things God requires from those who approach Him. (Honor & Glory)
   2.3.2. Our worship must be based on **His word** & must **glorify** Him.
   2.3.3. Our worship must be **acceptable** to Him & show **forth His Praises**.

2.4. “If every child of God were killed who substituted fleshly energy for the power of the Spirit, not many would be left!”
   2.4.1. **Q:** So why does He seem to some times respond w/ **fire** & other times with **forgiveness**?
   2.4.2. It seems at the beginning of **new periods** in redemptive history, God judged sin in a dramatic way so that people would learn to fear.
   2.4.2.1. **Examples:** Joshua 7 (sin of Achon)”new promise land era”; Acts 5 (Ananias & Sapphira)”new church era”.

2.5. **GRIEF!** (4-7)
   2.5.1. They were warned against any public display of grief, because they represented God & must not question His sovereign act of righteous judgement.

2.6. (6) The principle is the same in **Mt.8:21,22** “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” But Jesus said to him, "Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”
   2.6.1. Disheveled hair & torn clothes showed a sign of mourning.

2.7. **DRUNKENNESS!** (8-11)
   2.7.1. This is the only place where God spoke directly to Aaron.

2.8. Did their sin have something to do with strong drink?
   2.8.1. Were they under the influence of alcohol when they committed their acts of sacrilege?
   2.8.2. An inebriated condition **clouds judgment & removes distinctions** between sacred & profane.
   2.8.3. Note contrast - **Lk.1:15** “For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb.”

2.9. Paul’s admonition in Eph.5:18 is appropriate here. “And do not be **drunk with wine**, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,”
2.9.1. There is no acceptable substitute in ministry for the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. **STRANGE FAST! (12-20)**

3.1. **EATING THE OFFERINGS! (12-15)**
   3.1.1. In chapter 9 they had offered the offerings, now they are to eat their portions as part of the service.

3.2. **OBEY THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW! (16-20)**
   3.2.1. Aaron obeyed the spirit of the commandment but not the letter.
      3.2.1.1. **2 Cor.3:5,6** “…our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”
   3.2.2. Moses looked at the outward appearance, but God looked on the heart.
   3.2.3. God knows & understands your heart even when others are critical.
      3.2.3.1. **1 Jn.3:20-21** “For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God.”
   3.2.4. Aaron fasted (which wasn't forbidden) to show his grief of his 2 sons.

3.3. **Q:** Is your worship a “mechanical routine” or a “holy meal”?
   3.3.1. Counterfeit worship grieves the Spirit of God!
   3.3.2. God has “given us an entrance”…but it is still into the “Holy of Holies”!
      3.3.2.1. **Heb.10:19** “Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,”

3.4. I think this chapter brings out the balance of obeying the “Holy exactness” of God’s Word, & learning to discern “the Spirit of the Law”!
   3.4.1. **Heb.5:13,14** “For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

3.5. God has never taken worship lightly…and neither should we!