

## “Playing With Fire!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. My friend Steve:
- B. Chapters 1-4 God deals with the **outward** conditions of the camp(set up; layout).  
Chapters 5-10 God deals with the **inward** conditions.

### II. **PLAYING WITH FIRE!**

- A. **STRANGE FIRE!** (1-4)
- B. **Censer**(firepan) - (Show Picture) The priest filled the censer with live coals from the sacred fire on the altar of burnt-offering, and having carried it into the sanctuary, there threw upon the burning coals the sweet incense, which sent up a cloud of smoke, filling the apartment with fragrance.
- C. **Incense** - a fragrant composition prepared by the "art of the apothecary." It consisted of 4 ingredients "beaten small". That which was **not** thus prepared was called "strange incense" (Ex 30:9). It was offered along with every **meat-offering**; **and** besides was **daily offered** on the golden altar in the holy place, and on the great day of atonement was burnt by the high priest in the holy of holies.
- D. (4) **Profane Fire**(*strange fire; wrong kind of fire; unauthorized fire*) - See **Lev.10**
- E. In ch. 8,9 the priest had just been **made holy**.
  - 1. Fire just fell from heaven in a **positive way** (read 9:22-24).
  - 2. Fire's about to fall in a **bad way!**
  - 3. William's 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.
- F. **Great blessings** (last chapter) often lead to **great temptations!** (this chapter)
  - 1. **Jesus** – after His baptism(voice from heaven) right into temptations of wilderness.
  - 2. **Elijah** – ran after great victory on Carmel.
- G. It sure didn't take long for **sin** to enter the priesthood!
- H. Chapter 10 shows us what happens when Gods laws are **taken lightly**.
  - 1. **God has never taken worship lightly...& neither should we!**

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

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

J. **Everything they did was wrong!**

1. **The wrong People** – High Priest only. See - Ex.30:7-10
2. **The wrong Instruments** – They used **their** censers & not the High Priests.
  - a) **See** - Ex.40:9
3. **The wrong Time** – Only annually on the Day of Atonement (16:1).
  - a) They appear to have offered it at a time not prescribed – “**which he had not commanded them**”.
4. **The wrong Authority** – They didn’t consult w/Moses or their Dad – They didn’t follow the word of God.
5. **The wrong Fire** – They were commanded to use coals from the brazen altar. (See 16:12) Their incense was not lighted from the altar – “profane fire”.
  - a) NIV **unauthorized fire** - They were thus saying, **God our fire is as good as yours!**
  - b) *Interesting* - They were “*devoured*” by the fire; but their *priestly tunics* were not burnt (like the tabernacle was not burnt) (2,5).
  - c) God answers **false fire** with **real fire**!...& He’s a crack shot every time!
  - d) **Q: I wonder if we are guilty of worship of our own making?** {Ie. Coming up with our own flame!}
  - e) **Pass on the warmth of worship!** It can’t be manufactured! It should be passed on.
6. **The wrong Place** – **before the Lord**(2). Seems to imply they pressed (w/in the veil) into the Holy of Holies. (See 16:1,2)
7. **The wrong Motive** – They didn’t seek to **glorify** God alone (3).
  - a) Must have been **pride** in them. Their desire **wasn’t** to sanctify & glorify the Lord, **but** to promote themselves & be important.
8. **The wrong Energy** –They seemed to be under the influence of alcohol.
  - a) (see 8,9) This is the **only place** where God spoke directly to **Aaron**.
  - b) **Did their sin have something to do with strong drink?**
  - c) **Were they under the influence of alcohol when they committed their acts of sacrilege?**
    - (1) There is **no acceptable substitute** in ministry for the power of the H.S.

K. Those who have access to God have **responsibility** as well as **privilege**.

1. Vs. 3 is our **central theme** stating the **2 things** God **requires** from those who approach Him (**Honor & Glory**)
2. Our worship must be based on **His word** & must **glorify Him**.
3. Our worship must be **acceptable to Him** & show forth **His Praises**.

L. If every child of God were **killed** who substituted **fleshly energy** for the power of the **Spirit**, not many would be left!

1. **Q: So why does He sometimes respond w/fire & other times with forgiveness?**
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.
  - a) **Examples: Joshua 7** (sin of **Achon**) {new promise land era};  
**Acts 5** (**Ananias & Sapphira**) {new church era}

M. **DUTIES!** (5-39)

N. (10) **Aaron & his sons** were given the duties of the priesthood, the **rest of the tribe** formed the *more monotonous, really repetitive, dull duties* of ministry & transport.

O. **Gershonites** (21-26) - eldest son, pitched westward. Cared for hangings & curtains.

P. **Kohathites** (21-26) - related to Aaron, pitched southward. Cared for sacred vessels.

Q. **Merarites** (21-26) - pitched northward. Cared for the boards & sockets.

R. It was enough to know that his place & charge were **God-appointed**.

1. Even to **carry a peg** became honorable, when God had allotted that to a man as his share (37).
2. Each person is **vital** to the work of the Lord, no matter what task God assigns.
3. **No task is trivial. Some Levites had heavier burdens than others, but God had given the the assignments & He would enable them.**

S. Grace entrusted the Levites with the Tabernacle & its vessels; Love apportioned to each the load suited to his strength.

1. **Can you be content with 1 peg, or the heaviest piece?**  
 Knowing that **Grace** honors you & **Love** thought of you.
2. Better to carry a **peg** of the tabernacle than wield the **scepter** of Egypt!

T. **REDEMPTION OF FIRST BORN!** (12,13; 40-51)

U. The substitute for the firstborn.

1. The **Levites** were taken, instead of the **firstborn son of Israel** (the original provision), to perform the service of the Tabernacle.
2. There were *nearly as many* Levites as firstborn, & the difference was made good by the payment of **redemption money** on the part of the surplus(45-48).

V. **Jesus** - *the law of the firstborn...i.e.* Only begotten Son. He was the **Firstborn!**

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.