

# Nadab and Abihu

**The sons of Aaron, Nadab being Aaron's eldest son.**

Although little is known of their early years, scripture gives us abundant information about the environment in which they grew up.

**Born in Egypt, they were eye-witnesses of God's mighty acts of the exodus.**

They saw their father, Aaron, their uncle, Moses, and their aunt, Miriam, in action many times.

**They had first-hand knowledge of God's holiness as few people have ever had and for a while at least, they followed the Creator God wholeheartedly, [Leviticus 8:36].**

They were intimately present at Sinai, [Exodus 24:1, 9].

**They were made priests, [Exodus 28:1].**

**But at a crucial moment they chose to treat with indifference the clear instructions from the Creator God.**

**Leviticus 10:1-3** [New King James] *"Then Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, each took his censer and put fire in it, put incense on it, and offered profane fire before the LORD, which He had not commanded them. So fire went out from the LORD and devoured them, and they died before the LORD. And Moses said to Aaron, 'This is what the LORD spoke, saying: "By those who come near Me I must be regarded as holy; and before all the people I must be glorified."' So Aaron held his peace."*

Profane or strange fire, may mean either fire or incense kindled elsewhere than at the altar, [Leviticus 16:12] or incense offered at the wrong time, [Leviticus 16:2].

**Leviticus 10:8-9** [New King James] *"Then the LORD spoke to Aaron, saying: 'Do not drink wine or intoxicating drink, you, nor your sons with you, when you go into the tabernacle of meeting, lest you die. It shall be a statute forever throughout your generations,'"*

**This hints that there was the possibility of drunkenness involved in the sin.**

**The consequence of their sin was fiery, instant and shocking to all.**

**Any person is in danger of making the same mistake as these two brothers when we treat lightly the justice and holiness of the Creator God.**

We must draw near to the Creator God while realising that there must be always a proper fear, awe and great respect of our Creator and Sustainer.

**Never forget that the opportunity to know the Creator God personally is based on His gracious invitation to an always unworthy people, [John 6:44] not a gift to be taken for granted.**

We have to ask ourselves do my thoughts about the Creator God include a humble recognition of His great holiness?

**Isaiah 55:7-9** [New King James] *"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the*

*LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.'*"

**This states the reality of the difference between human and Godly thoughts, and it is our thoughts that express our character.**

**The lesson we are to learn from the lives of Aaron's sons is that all sin has deadly consequences. Sin is the disrespect of the commands of our Creator God, [1 John 3:4; 1 John 1:8].**