

## **What did Aaron's Sons do that was so wrong in Leviticus 10?**

Apparently these two men (Nahab and Abihu) were burning incense in the temple inappropriately that much is sure. In verses 8-9 Moses sets a prohibition against drinking alcohol prior to entering the tent of meeting, perhaps these two had been drinking as well. Whatever the case, they evidently were not entering into God's presence reverently and treating His temple with the respect, honor and reverence that it deserved. The forthcoming sin offering is evidence that the entire camp needed to apologize to God for this infraction.

Playing priest may have seemed like a good idea to these two bumbling brothers, but perhaps they did not realize that God does not look upon the exterior actions alone, He always sees the condition of our hearts. These two young men evidently were practicing worship in an entirely empty fashion. Doing extra in the tent of meeting to be seen as something you are not, especially after you have been drinking with your brother and attempt foolishly to put on a little show got them dead. This type of activity is repulsive to a just and loving God, as it should be. This was the LORD's tent, a sacred place to meet with Him, certainly not a place to "go through the motions" or "play religion".

This episode is a reminder to God's people even today to take seriously our approach to the true living God. Unlike the God's served by others our God is real and His power unmatched in all of His creation. When we serve Him and worship Him, He will know if our acts are an exterior show for others to see, or if our hearts are truly seeking Him in earnest. To approach God is an honor not to be taken lightly, ours is not a religion of empty rituals or magical practices, it is an opportunity to share a relationship with the one true living God! He takes this seriously and looks to our hearts and knows our true motives. We undoubtedly should look to His heart as well and know that our respect and love for Him as His people should encourage us to strive to be holy, pure and right in our hearts.