

# Holy to the Lord

You and the book of  
Leviticus

Chapters 9 & 10

# Leviticus 9



Listen to chapter 9 in it's entirety (either read by someone, or listened to from an audio file).

Explain that we will not be focusing on the sacrifices so much in this section (we have covered them extensively in the past chapters), but will focus on the overriding actions of God toward His people in this chapter.

After the chapter is completed, ask, "What is the purpose of this chapter?"

## “The eighth day”



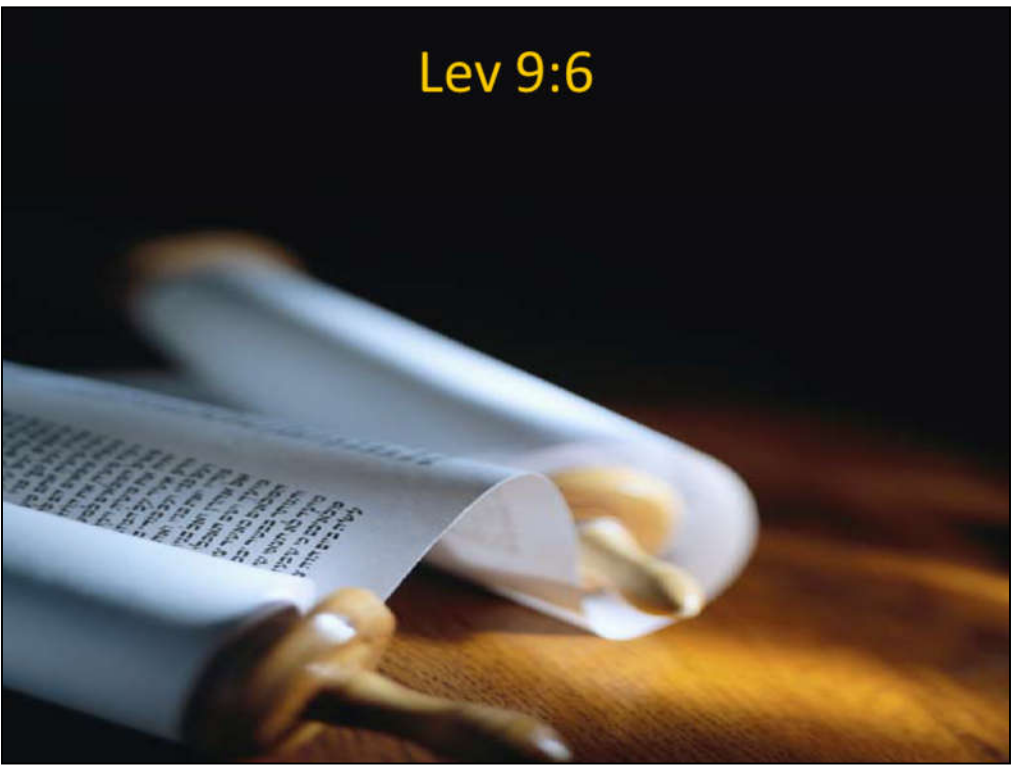
Chapter nine begins with “on the eighth day.” Why is this a strange phrase? (Could just say “The first day.”)

The eighth day is the first day of the new week, and it has a sense of the inauguration of something new; a new beginning.

- 1) This goes back the creation where God created in six days, rested on the seventh, and the eighth was seen as the day when God’s creation began to roll.
- 2) For the Jews, Circumcision was done on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, representing the new life that the child had as one of God’s covenant people.
- 3) Our circumcision in baptism where we receive new life in Christ. Many traditional baptismal fonts were built 8 sided to reflect this.
- 4) Probably the greatest 8<sup>th</sup> day event was the resurrection of Christ. How does this fit with the symbolism of the 8<sup>th</sup> day? (The start of God’s new creation through the victory over death.)

So, getting back to Leviticus, what is God saying here by opening this chapter with, “On the eighth day?” (A new thing is about to begin here.) What is it? (The beginning of the sacrificial system. --Up until this point we have just had instructions as to how to carry it out. Here Aaron begins the sacrifices since his ordination period is over [7 days, interestingly enough the same number of days as the creation including the day of rest])

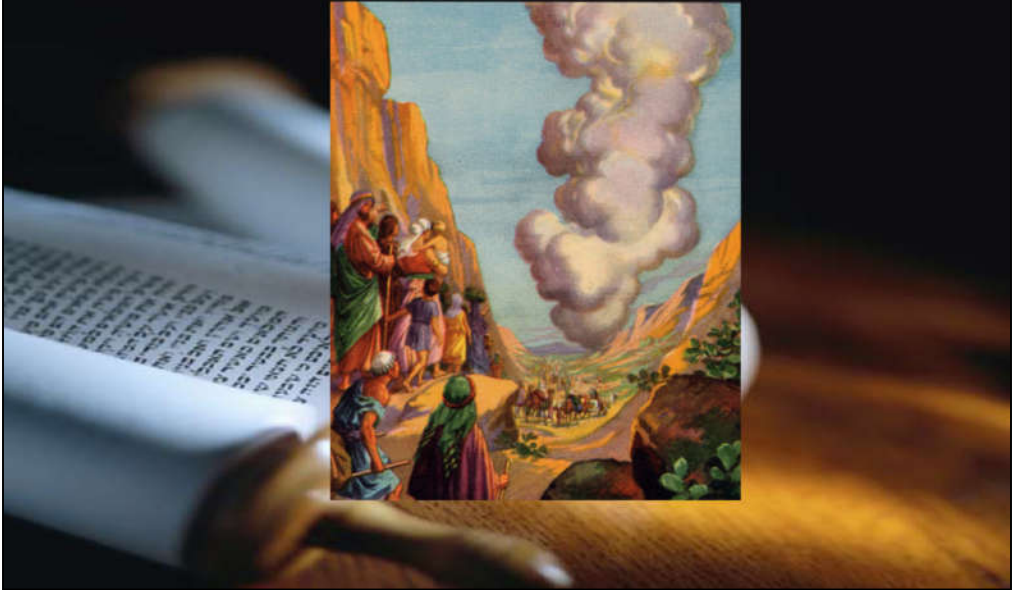
## Lev 9:6



Read Lev 9:6 What does Moses say is the reason for carrying out these sacrifices?  
(So that the glory of the Lord may appear to Aaron) -next slide

# “The Glory of the Lord”

Ex 16:7-10



What is the glory of the Lord? (It is the radiance that surrounds God. His visible and accessible presence as He chooses to reveal Himself. \*Note: it is not associated with an idol or man-made object as the pagans would usually have.)

The glory of the Lord first appeared to the people when they were complaining about food in the wilderness:

Exodus 16:7-10 “and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling against the Lord. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” [8] And Moses said, “When the Lord gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the Lord has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him— what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the Lord.” [9] Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the Lord, for he has heard your grumbling.’” [10] And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. “

# “The Glory of the Lord”



The glory of the Lord was also apparent on Mt Sinai

Read Exodus 24:16-17

The glory of the Lord dwelt on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud. [17] Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.



# “The Glory of the Lord”

Ex 40:34-38



After the tabernacle was completed the Glory of the Lord filled it.

Exodus 40:34-38 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. [35] And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. [36] Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. [37] But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. [38] For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.

\*Side note: Isn't it interesting that the Glory of the Lord (in cloud or fire form) would provide shade during the day, and light during the night.

# “The Glory of the Lord”



V 23 “The glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.”

This seems to signify a special appearing to the entire congregation.

What precedes this appearance? (A blessing from Aaron to the people.)

What words did He likely bless them with? (The Aaronic blessing. Numbers 6:22-26)

This is the blessing that God told Aaron to use on His people? It is still used today, meaning it has lasted for approximately 3000 years.

Why don't we use something new or different? (God promises to bless His people through these words, why mess with His promises?)

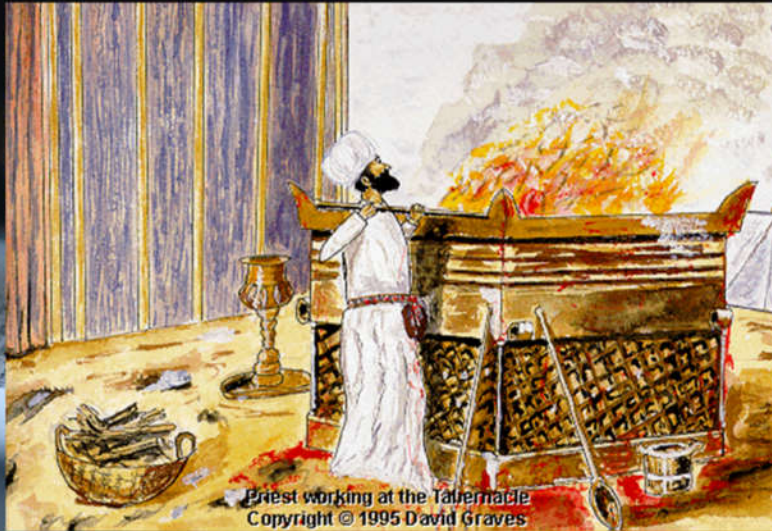


## “The Glory of the Lord”



Where else do we hear about “The Glory of the Lord?” (At the birth of Christ)  
How does this event fit with all the other uses of this phrase? (God is appearing before His people, so much so here that He becomes one of them.)

## Lev 9:24



What happened after His glory appeared?

Leviticus 9:24 And fire came out from before the Lord and consumed the burnt offering and the pieces of fat on the altar, and when all the people saw it, they shouted and fell on their faces.

What can we assume is meant by God providing the fire and consuming (literally the word is “eating” the offering)? (He personally accepts the offering)

# Leviticus 10



Listen to a audio recording of chapter 10 in it's entirety.

Ask, "What questions does this chapter raise in your mind?"

# Leviticus 10



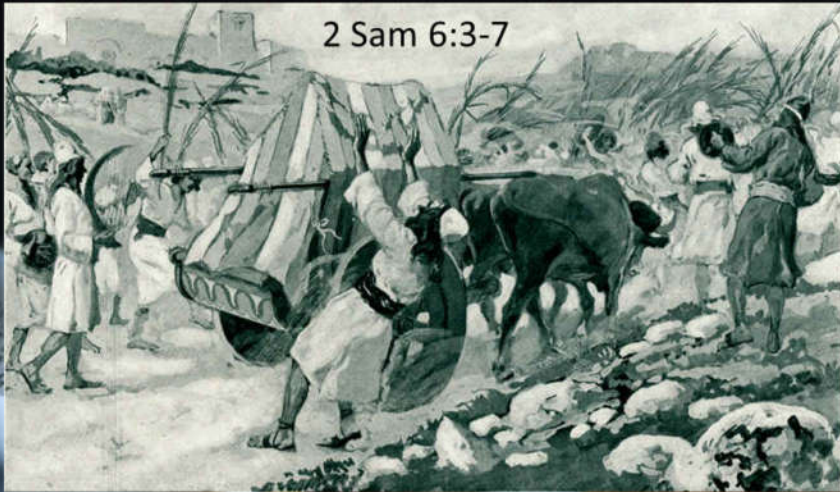
What did Nahab and Abihu do that was so bad? (Offered an “unauthorized” or “strange” fire before the Lord)

As we heard in chapter 9, the Lord’s fire on the altar came from His presence and made smoke of offerings on the altar. It was to always be kept burning as a perpetual fire. Coals lit from it were used for burning incense twice each day on the incense altar in the tent of the tabernacle. So instead of using coals from the holy fire Hadab and Abihu used “unauthorized” or “strange” fire from some other source.

Why do you think that God doesn’t go into detail about the source of the wrong fire? (Then we would focus on why that particular source was wrong as opposed to which source is right.)

Did it warrant their death? (In God’s eyes it did.)

## An example



It could be that God is making an example of the two priests so that people will know just how serious He is about His holiness. We see a similar event in 2 Sam 6:3-7 where Uzzah touches the ark and is immediately struck down.



# “Consuming fire”

Ex 24:17



When we first heard about the glory of the Lord on Mt. Sinai we heard it described as a “devouring” or “consuming” fire. Read Exodus 24:17 “Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel.”

This can be a pleasant or a terrifying thing. If the fire consumes (eats) the offering then the people are atoned for and have peace with God. However, if the fire consumes (eats) the priests that are indifferent toward it, then it is a terrifying thing. A lethal thing.

This fire consume

# No alcohol?

Num 15:5



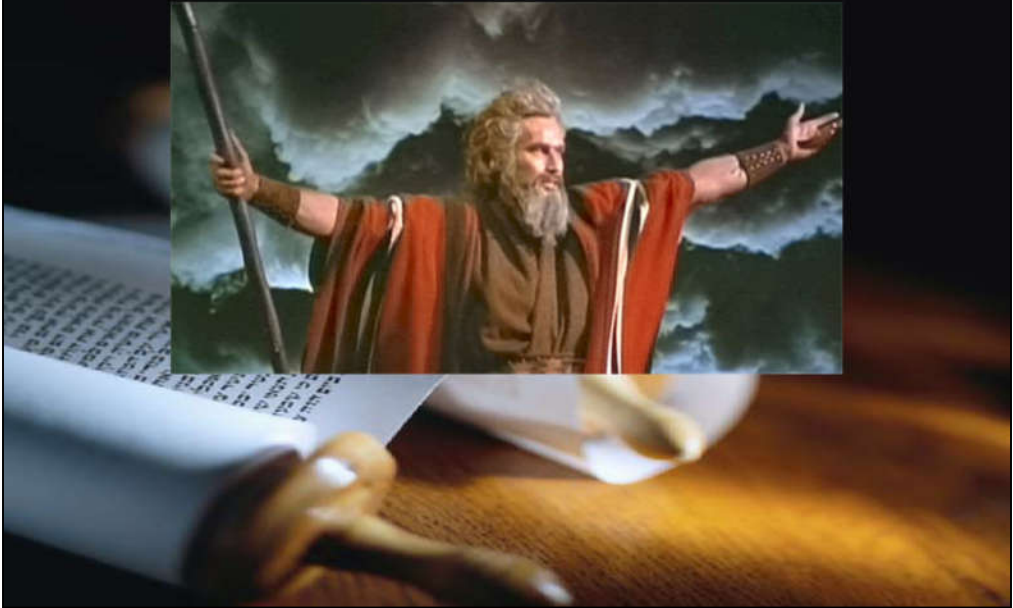
What practical reason would there be for not allowing alcohol? (Impair the senses, make mistakes, burn themselves, fall off the ramp)

Is alcohol evil? (No, in fact it was offered as an offering on the altar) Read Num 15:5

What theological reasons would there be? (Alcohol was used in Canaanite and other pagan rituals. It certainly had a power on people, but a natural power, not a divine one.

# Moses reprimands

Lev 10:16-18



Read Lev 10:16-18 Why is Moses upset? (the parts of the goat for the sin offering that were to be eaten were made into smoke)

# Aaron Responds

Lev 10:19



Read Lev 10:19 What is Aaron's response? (He wasn't sure if the Lord would have approved of the eating of the meat, even though this was laid out in the guidelines.)

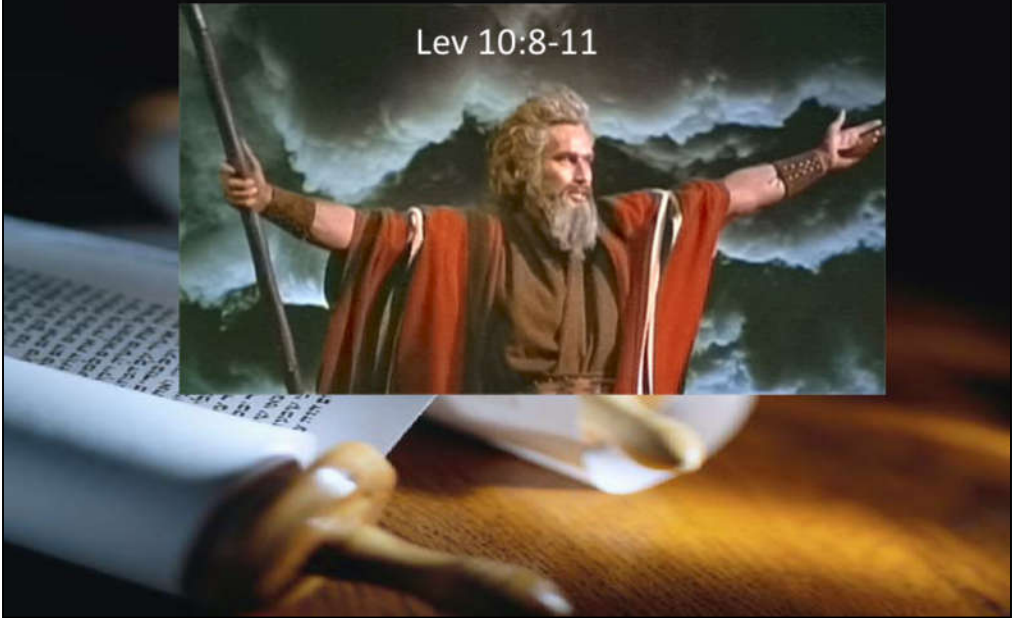
Why was Aaron unsure? (Because of the death of Nadab and Abihu. It is unclear if their actions desecrated that day's sacrifice. Even the presence of their bodies [a dead body is understood to be unclean] may have desecrated the sacrifice.) Aaron has chosen to play things safe and make smoke out of the entire offering, thus turning it over to God. In doing so, He doesn't really go against the regulations, but goes beyond them, displaying great respect for God's holiness.

Aaron's actions are in complete contrast to those of Nadab and Abihu.

# Moses relents

Lev 10:20

Lev 10:8-11



Read Lev 10:20 What is Moses response? (He relents.)

How do the words to Aaron that God speaks in Lev 10:8-11 fit into all this? (God has given Aaron the authority and the responsibility to help the people distinguish between what is holy, common, and unclean. That is exactly what he is doing in this section, even though it is a grey area as to what the classification of the offering is.)



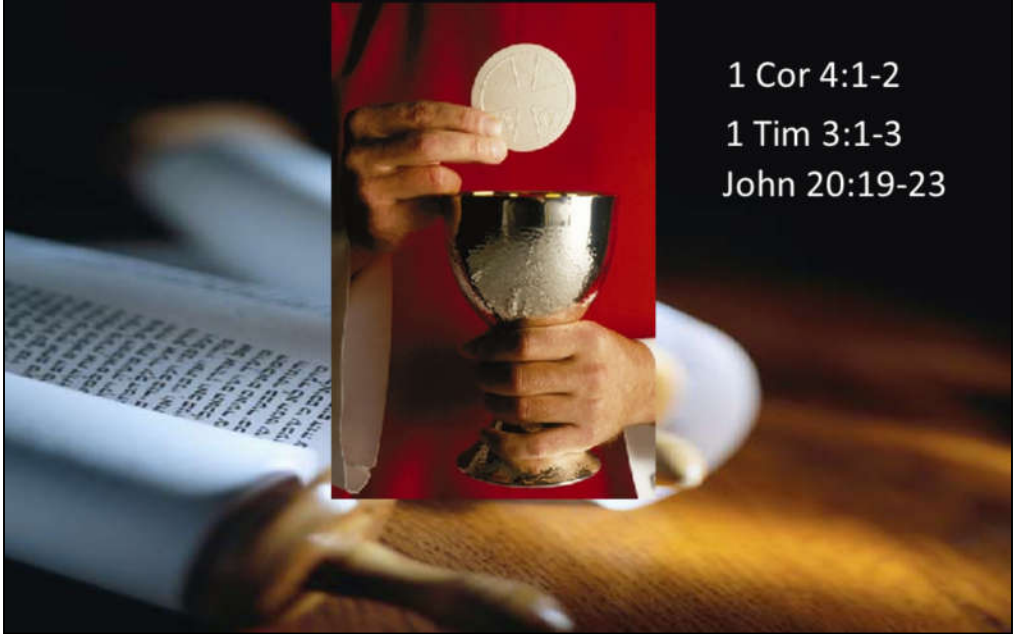
# What about us?

1 Cor 11:27-32



Read 1 Cor 11:27-32 What does this statement from St. Paul say to us about the Lord's Supper? How is it similar to the narrative from Lev 10? (Something intended to bring us forgiveness and peace can actually be harmful under the wrong conditions.)

# Role of the Pastor



1 Cor 4:1-2

1 Tim 3:1-3

John 20:19-23

How is the role of the pastor similar to that of Aaron and the priests as mentioned in Lev 10?

1. He is entrusted with the mysteries of God.
2. He should not be a drunkard.
3. He is responsible for removing the sins of the people.

# Clean and Unclean



Next week we look at what is clean and what is unclean.