



A YEAR
with
GOD
Daily Devotional

DAY 46



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DAY FORTY-SIX

Leviticus 8 - 10

Strange Fire

The Tabernacle is built. The offerings are established. And now the priests are consecrated. For seven days, Aaron and his sons remain at the entrance of the tent of meeting without leaving. Seven days of preparation, washing, anointing, and sacrifice before a single official act of ministry. The whole week belongs to God before the work begins.

On the eighth day, Aaron comes before the people. He offers sin offerings and burnt offerings for himself and for them. He lifts his hands toward the people and blesses them. And then something happens that no instructions could have fully prepared them for:

*“Fire came out from the presence of the Lord
and consumed the burnt offering and the fat portions on the altar.
And when all the people saw it, they shouted for joy
and fell facedown.”*

- Leviticus 9:24

Fire from the presence of God. Not the priest's fire. Not the altar fire that has been burning all along. God's own fire, coming out from His presence, consuming the offering. The people see it and shout and fall on their faces. The God who has been described in all these laws

and measurements and rituals is present, active, responding. He has accepted the offering. He has shown up for His own house.

When God accepts what you have built and offered, He shows up in ways that no programme could produce. The fire from His presence is not something you generate. It is something you position yourself to receive - through obedience, through preparation, through the long work of getting everything in order. And then He comes.

Chapter 10. The very next scene.

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu take their censers, put fire in them, add incense, and offer it before the Lord. Unauthorised fire - fire that He had not commanded. And fire comes out from the presence of the Lord and consumes them. They die before the Lord.

The same fire that accepted the offering in chapter 9 now judges in chapter 10. The same presence. The same glory. The difference is not the fire. The difference is the approach.

- The chapters are deliberately consecutive. The joy of chapter 9 and the grief of chapter 10 are meant to be held together. The same God who is near enough to send His fire upon your offering is near enough to be taken seriously.

Holiness is not a threat. It is a reality. God is not harsh - He is holy. And holiness cannot be approached carelessly any more than the sun can be approached without distance. Nadab and Abihu were not enemies of

God. They were His priests. And they presumed on a familiarity that had not been earned.

Moses says to Aaron: this is what the Lord spoke of when he said, among those who approach me I will be proved holy; in the sight of all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron is silent. He does not argue. He does not collapse in grief - at least not outwardly. He holds the weight of it quietly. Sometimes the most faithful thing you can do when God does something you do not understand is be silent before Him.

God then speaks directly to Aaron - one of the few times in Leviticus that God speaks to Aaron rather than through Moses. He tells him: do not drink wine or strong spirits when you come into the tent of meeting. The implication is that Nadab and Abihu may have been drinking. The requirement is not just the right ritual. It is the right state of heart. You cannot minister to a holy God while your judgment is impaired.

You cannot bring a clear offering with a clouded mind and heart. What impairs your discernment impairs your worship. God is not asking for perfection - He knows the dust He made you from. But He is asking for sobriety. For consciousness. For the awareness that you are standing before Someone who is worthy of your full attention.

The chapter ends with Moses instructing Aaron and his remaining sons to eat the sin offering. It is still holy. The loss has not cancelled

the covenant. The work goes on. Aaron's family is bereaved and the fire is still burning and the offerings must still be made. Some of the hardest acts of faithfulness are the ones performed in grief.

The ministry does not pause for your grief. And God does not ask you to be unmoved. He asks you to keep showing up. Aaron lost two sons in one day and was back at the altar. What you carry into the tent of meeting is yours. But the tent of meeting stays open. Speak this over yourself today:

I will approach the holy with reverence, not presumption.

I will bring a clear heart, not a clouded one.

And even in grief, I will keep showing up.

The tent of meeting stays open.

TOMORROW - Day 47 Leviticus 11-13

God is about to teach Israel the difference between clean and unclean - and what looks like a list of food rules is actually a lesson about holiness shaping every part of daily life. Come back tomorrow.

Day 46 of 365



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