

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why were the Children of Israel especially praising God on the occasion recorded in our lesson?
2. In the midst of their joy, what terrible thing happened and why did it happen?
3. What was the strange fire that Nadab and Abihu offered before God?
4. How could we grow careless about obeying God, and do things our way instead of God's way?
5. How does God deal with irreverence today?
6. What does God require of us today to enjoy His blessings and love?

SUMMARY:

A way of worship had been established for the Children of Israel. They now had a visible place where God dwelt with them. Their hearts were filled with praise. But a dark hour came when some took lightly God's command and because of a lack of implicit obedience in serving Him, two men came under God's severest judgment.

Just as God called the Children of Israel to separate themselves from the rest of the world and walk only with Him, so likewise does He call us to be a separate people and to be submissive and obedient to His every Word and direction.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #10

June 8, 2008

Second Quarter

DEATH THROUGH IRREVERENCE

LESSON TEXT: *Leviticus 9:23-24; 10:1-11*

LESSON SETTING: The Children of Israel have completed the Tabernacle according to the instructions of God. Aaron and his sons have been consecrated for the ministry, to serve in the offerings and worship of the Lord.

TIME: About 1490 B.C.

I. WHOLEHEARTED PRAISE. Leviticus 9:23-24

- A. Glory of the Lord Appeared (vs. 23) Genesis 17:1; Luke 24:50; 1 Corinthians 15:6
- B. Reverence toward God (vs. 24) Psalm 4:4; Psalm 33:8; 89:7

II. GROSS IRREVERENCE. Leviticus 10:1-2

- A. Disobedience (vs. 1) 1 Samuel 12:15; Ephesians 5:6; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8
- B. Sacrilege (vs. 1) 2 Samuel 6:6; Matthew 21:12-13; Acts 5:3; Romans 2:22; 1 Corinthians 11:22
- C. Penalty (vs. 2) Numbers 26:9-10; 1 Samuel 6:7; Acts 5:5; Jude 11

III. DIVINE INSTRUCTION. Leviticus 10:3-11

- A. Submission (vs. 3) Romans 6:13; James 4:7
- B. Abstinence (vs. 9) Proverbs 23:31; 31:4; Luke 1:15; Romans 14:21; 1 Timothy 3:3
- C. Separation (vs. 10) Leviticus 20:26; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6
- D. Teach People (vs. 11) Colossians 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:11; 2 Timothy 2:24-25

GOLDEN TEXT: . . . I WILL BE SANCTIFIED IN THEM THAT COME NIGH ME, AND BEFORE ALL THE PEOPLE I WILL BE GLORIFIED . . .
Leviticus 10:3

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Numbers 13:17-33; 14:1-3

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Psalm 106:24-26;
Matthew 7:21-23; John 12:37

QUARTERLY THEME: Journeys of Israel

TOPIC: FAILURE THROUGH UNBELIEF

INTRODUCTION:

In the journey through the wilderness, the Children of Israel had now reached the "entrance" to the Promised Land. To test their faithfulness, God told Moses to send men to spy out the land.

They brought samples of the fruit to prove its bountiful harvests. It must have been an awe-inspiring experience to see the large clusters of grapes.

They saw other things, too, that to the pessimists were quite discouraging, but to those with eyes of faith it was not a deterrent to enter the land. Some of the spies reported that giants lived in the land. In their discouragement and unbelief they felt there was no chance of overcoming the enemy. The people accepted the report of the ten unbelieving spies instead of the reports of faithful Caleb and Joshua. Because of the unbelief of the people, God turned them away from the Promised Land.

We today should take this as an example for our lives that we do not close the door to God's blessings by our failure to believe His promises. We should beware lest we too trust more in our own selves and our abilities rather than to trust in God and His power.

CENTRAL TRUTH: He must increase and we must decrease.

GOLDEN TEXT: *SO WE SEE THAT THEY COULD NOT ENTER IN BECAUSE OF UNBELIEF.*

Hebrews 3:19

One may ask "How can a people who had made the following experiences not enter the promised land because of unbelief?"

- (1) Witnessed unheard-of miracles with their own eyes;
- (2) Experienced God's deliverance from slavery;
- (3) Enjoyed His protection and guidance by day and by night."

It almost sounds incredible. The scriptures say that "they could not." What happened, then, should make us very much aware that "the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." It should make us realize and recognize the fact that the heart can be swayed and turned from God. We should be conscious of the fact that the heart can be conditioned to the extent that it "limits" God. Even Jesus could not do much in Nazareth.

We read in Psalm 106:24 "They soon forgot, Yea, they despised the pleasant land, they **believed not His Word.**" "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and **limited** the Holy One of Israel." (Psalm 78:41)

Are there similar hazards and perils in the modern world? Can we be lulled by soothing influences into a comfortable state of mind that relaxes our vigilance? Are we ever exposed to "new concepts" that suggest that we as Christians are in a "no danger zone"? Is the Bible silent about these matters? Quite to the contrary. Believers are urged from cover to cover to "watch and pray;" be vigilant; be sober; be faithful.

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." (Hebrews 3:12) Is God pleased with you? With many of them God was not.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF June 9 – 15

- M. *Failure Through Unbelief. Numbers 13:17-33; 14:1-3
- T. Faith Overcomes Impossibilities. Matthew 17:14-21
- W. Faith Motivates Right Choices. Ruth 1:1-17
- T. Faith Brings Results. Romans 4:16-25
- F. Faith Claims Justification. Romans 5:1-11
- S. Faith Produces Heroes. Hebrews 11:32-40
- S. Faith Overcomes the World. 1 John 5:1-12