

February 18 Answers

- 1) After Moses, Aaron and his sons carried out God's commands, His **glory** appeared to all the people. Fire came out from before the LORD and consumed the burnt offering and pieces of fat on the altar. This spectacular display of God's presence showed that He **approved** of the priesthood and **accepted** the people's worship. God was now pleased to dwell with His people in the midst of the camp. This teaches us that God is **holy**, and He must be worshiped in the manner He decides. Through Christ, we can come boldly to God's throne, but we are still called to holiness and **careful** living. Sadly, this wonderful day was marred with tragedy. God killed Nadab and Abihu, Aaron's eldest sons, for offering "**strange** fire" which He had not commanded. The wording of Leviticus 16:1–2 suggests that their sin may have been twofold: (1) they tried to come into God's presence at a **time** which He had not authorized (Aaron was warned not to "come at **any** time"), and (2) they tried to enter a **place** which God had not authorized (Aaron was warned not to go "into the Holy Place **inside** the veil" except under *special* circumstances). Also, Leviticus 10:9 hints that Nadab and Abihu may have been **drinking** and so their judgment and sense of caution would have been impaired. In short, Aaron's sons likely tried to present an incense offering at an unauthorized time (one of their own **choosing**) in an unauthorized place (they **barged** into the most Holy Place). God told Aaron, "Through those who are near me I will show myself holy, and before all the people I will be **glorified**" (Lev 10:3 NRSV). This teaches us that if we will not **sanctify** God by our actions as the One who is worthy of fear and reverence, then He may use our death as an opportunity to **remind** those around us that He is indeed the God who is to be honored and **feared** above all.