

=LITTLE-KNOWN BIBLE CHARACTERS=

Lesson 8

Nadab and Abihu, Men Who Were Destroyed by God

AIM: to teach my pupils that no one is exempt from incurring the extreme displeasure of God.

POINT OF CONTACT: Strike a match, hold it before your class, and ask the pupils to tell you some things that could be done with the flame from the match. Then say, “Now let’s find a place where God used fire to discipline His people.”

INTRODUCTION: Nadab and Abihu had offered before God a fire upon the altar that God had not commanded, and in so doing, they had incurred the displeasure of God. By the same element—fire, God destroyed Nadab and Abihu. See Leviticus 10:1, 2.

I. NO ONE IS EXEMPT FROM DOING THE SAME THING.

1. Their family relationship was good. Read Exodus 6:23. Their mother’s name meant “God is her oath.” Their father was Aaron, the High Priest. Their uncle was Moses. They came from a most illustrious, religious, Christian family.
2. They had known the power of God from their very youth. Notice Exodus 6:3; 12:29-51. The Bible tells us these two men had been born in Egypt. As a result, they would have known of the blood on the door posts and the killing by God of the firstborn in Egypt. They would have known of the power of God from their very earliest days.
3. They had been called into special service. We find this in Exodus 24:1, 9; Leviticus 8:1, 2. These were men who had been called by God to be leaders of Israel. They were counted along with 70 outstanding men of the congregation who had been called to lead the people into a place of blessing.
4. They had seen God. Read Exodus 24:9, 10. They went to the mountaintop, and there they were given the privilege, as was Moses, of seeing God Himself. You would not think that men who had such a background would ever do anything that would cause the displeasure of God. These same men did something that was so horrible that God, without a word, caused their death by fire from Heaven.

II. THERE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN DO TO KEEP IT FROM HAPPENING.

1. You can stay away from liberals. The word “Nadab” means “liberal.” It makes no difference who the man is—whether he is your brother physically, the man you work with, or a man who professes to be your brother spiritually—if he is a liberal, if he does not believe the fundamental teachings of the Bible, we are commanded not to have fellowship with him. Read II Corinthians 6:17. This does not mean we are to exclude these people from our preaching, but we are to exclude them from our parties.
2. Check before you act. Is this really the thing that God wants to be done? Is this really the way that God wants to be glorified? This is the day of man serving God the way he wants to serve God. Man is in real danger if he does not serve God the way God wishes to be served.
3. Stay in full control of your senses at all times. In Leviticus 10:8, 9, at the end of the discussion of the death of these two men, God immediately spoke to Aaron, telling the people not to drink wine or strong drink when they came into the congregation, lest they die. We do not know that these men were drunk when they did what they did, but there is some reason for God putting this particular statement so near the sequence of events about which we have been speaking.

III. TO INSURE THIS WILL NOT HAPPEN IN YOUR LIFE, STAY WHERE THE REAL FIRE IS. If you never get where there is any strange fire, you will never pick up any strange fire!

1. Hebrews 1:7 says that His ministers are “a flame of fire.” Stay close to real Bible preachers and real Bible soul winners.
2. Matthew 3:11 says that Jesus baptized with fire. Therefore, plan your every step and spend every day doing the things that have the promise that Jesus will be with you. Check the number of places in the Bible where Jesus promises to be with you. Matthew 18:20, “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 concludes with “...and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

3. Jeremiah 23:29a says, “Is not my word like as a fire?” Keep your every thought coming from the Word. Study the Word; soak it up. People who love the Word of God and follow it in their daily lives will never incur the wrath of God, so long as they shall follow the Word and do things the way the Bible says to do them.