

God is Holy, we must obey him



After that, Aaron raised his hands toward the people and blessed them.

Then, after presenting the sin offering, the burnt offering, and the peace offering, he stepped down from the altar. Then Moses and Aaron went into the Tabernacle, and when they came back out, they blessed the people again, and the glory of the Lord appeared to the whole community. Fire blazed forth from the Lord's presence and consumed the burnt offering and the fat on the altar.

When the people saw this, they shouted with joy and fell face down on the ground.

Aaron's sons Nadab and Abihu put coals of fire in their incense burners and sprinkled incense over them. In this way, they disobeyed the Lord by burning before him the wrong kind of fire, different than he had commanded. So fire blazed forth from the Lord's presence and burned them up, and they died there before the Lord.

*Then Moses said to Aaron, "This is what the Lord meant when he said,
'I will display my holiness
through those who come near me.
I will display my glory
before all the people.'"
And Aaron was silent.*

~ Leviticus 9:22-10:3 (NLT) ~

Have you ever had something really good happen to you, like really good, and then straight away something really bad happen to you?

Well, that is what happened to God's people the Israelites.

Moses, their leader, had followed all the instructions God had given him, and he had completed the ceremony to make Aaron and his sons the priests. The job of the priests was to represent the people to God and God to the people. It was a special and important job.

And after Moses and Aaron and his sons had done the ceremony, just as God had said, Moses and Aaron went into the Tent of Meeting and met God there. And then God came and met with all of his people!

This was best thing that had happened or could happen for God's people!

But straight after that we read that two of Aaron's sons, two of the priests, are killed by God because they didn't follow him properly. This was something really bad!

This true story, as sad as it is, reminds us that because God is holy, that is he is completely perfect and pure, we have to make sure that we are doing what God says. His way is the best way.

But the reality is we don't always follow God's way, and for the times we don't follow God's ways, I want to remind us of the words of the Bible:

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. (1 John 2:1-2)

Some questions to think about:

1. What was the really good thing that happened to God's people?
2. What was the really bad thing that happened to God's people?
3. Why did the really bad thing happen?
4. What does this true teach us?
5. What great promise do we have from the Bible for when we fail to follow God's instructions?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that even though you are holy you still want to be close to your people. Sorry we do not always listen to and follow your instructions. Please help us to obey you always.

Amen.