

## Lesson VI.

## THE SIN OF NADAB AND ABIHU

August 11, 1907

Leviticus 10: 1-11. Commit to memory v. 9. Read Leviticus, chs. 8 to 10.

GOLDEN TEXT—Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Proverbs 20: 1.

1 And Na<sup>1</sup>dab and Abi<sup>2</sup>hu, the sons of Aa<sup>3</sup>'ron, took either of them his censer, and <sup>2</sup>put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he <sup>3</sup>commanded them not.

2 And there <sup>4</sup>went out fire from <sup>5</sup>the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.

3 Then Mo<sup>6</sup>'ses said unto Aa<sup>7</sup>'ron, This *is it* that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aa<sup>8</sup>'ron held his peace.

4 And Mo<sup>9</sup>'ses called Mi<sup>10</sup>shael and Elza<sup>11</sup>'phan, the sons of U<sup>12</sup>sziel the uncle of Aa<sup>13</sup>'ron, and said unto them, <sup>14</sup>Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp.

5 So they <sup>15</sup>went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Mo<sup>16</sup>'ses had said.

6 And Mo<sup>17</sup>'ses said unto Aa<sup>18</sup>'ron, and unto Elea<sup>19</sup>'zar and unto Ith<sup>20</sup>'amar, his sons, <sup>21</sup>Uncover not your heads,

**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup>each; <sup>2</sup>laid; <sup>3</sup>had not commanded them; <sup>4</sup>came forth; <sup>5</sup>before; <sup>6</sup>Draw; <sup>7</sup>drew; <sup>8</sup>Let not the hair of your heads go loose; <sup>9</sup>that ye die not; <sup>10</sup>that he be not wroth with; <sup>11</sup>congregation; <sup>12</sup>tent of meeting; <sup>13</sup>Drink no wine; <sup>14</sup>the;

neither rend your clothes; <sup>15</sup>lest ye die, and <sup>16</sup>lest wrath come upon all the <sup>17</sup>people; but let your brethren, the whole house of Is<sup>18</sup>rael, bewail the burning which the Lord hath kindled.

7 And ye shall not go out from the door of the <sup>12</sup>tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die: for the anointing oil of the Lord <sup>13</sup>is upon you. And they did according to the word of Mo<sup>14</sup>'ses.

8 And the Lord spake unto Aa<sup>9</sup>'ron, saying,

9 <sup>10</sup>Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the <sup>12</sup>tabernacle of the congregation, <sup>13</sup>lest ye die: *it shall be a statute* for ever throughout your generations:

10 And that ye may put difference between <sup>14</sup>holy and <sup>15</sup>unholy, and between <sup>16</sup>unclean and <sup>17</sup>clean;

11 And that ye may teach the children of Is<sup>18</sup>rael all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Mo<sup>19</sup>'ses.

**Shorter Catechism**—Ques. 65. What is forbidden in the fifth commandment? A. The fifth commandment forbiddeth the neglecting of, or doing anything against, the honour and duty which belongeth to everyone in their several places and relations.

**The Question on Missions**—6. What can Sabbath Schools do for missions in the West? They can aid by their prayers and by their gifts of money. Besides, many of the boys and young men in the Sabbath School can give themselves to be trained in school and college for work as home missionaries.

**Lesson Hymns**—Book of Praise, 317 (Supplemental Lesson); 246; 530; 17 (Ps. Sel.); 255 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 251.

## LESSON PLAN

I. A Great Sin, 1.

II. A Sad Doom, 2-7.

III. A Solemn Warning, 8-11.

## DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I.B.R. Association)

M.—The sin of Nadab and Abihu, Lev. 10: 1-11.

T.—Strange incense forbidden, Ex. 30: 1-10.

W.—Disobedience punished, 2 Chron. 26: 14-21.

Th.—Rules for priests, Ezek. 44: 15-21. F.—Take heed! Luke 21: 29-36. S.—True worship, John

4: 5-24. S.—Children of light, 1 Thess. 5: 5-23.

## EXPOSITION

**Time and Place**—B. C. 1490; at Mount Sinai.

**Connecting Links**—The Book of Leviticus, that is the Levitical Book, contains an extensive code of laws relating to religious ceremonial, with but few incidents of the wilderness journey. One of the few is the judgment on Nadab and Abihu. The ceremonies at the consecration of the tabernacle and the priests (see Ex., ch. 29, and ch. 40: 12, 13, last Lesson) occupied seven days (for description, see Lev., ch. 8). On the eighth day, Aaron and his sons entered on their priestly duties by offering sacrifices to the Lord, ch. 9. The sin of Nadab and Abihu was committed probably at the hour of the evening sacrifice, three in the afternoon.

## I. A Great Sin, 1.

V. 1. *Nadab and Abihu*. Aaron had four sons. These were the two elder ones, the names of the others being Eleazar and Ithamar, Ex. 6: 23. Their ages at the time of the Exodus is not given; but Aaron was

eighty-three (Ex. 7: 7), and all his sons probably had attained to middle life. *His censer*; "the vessel used to carry the charcoal on which the incense was burned, a bowl-shaped implement furnished with a short handle." (Hastings.) *Offered strange fire before the Lord*. The incense, which symbolized the prayers of the people at their sacrifices, was required to be lighted with fire from the brazen altar. This flame had been divinely kindled (see ch. 9: 24), and a Jewish tradition says that it was never extinguished until the destruction of the temple by Nebuchadnezzar. The sin of Nadab and Abihu consisted, as is commonly held, in using fire obtained elsewhere. *Before the Lord*. Possibly also they rashly attempted to press within the veil, into the Holy of Holies, which only the high priest was permitted to enter, and he but once a year, on the great Day of Atonement, ch. 16: 2; Heb. 9: 7.

## II. A Sad Doom, 2-7.

Vs. 2, 3. *Fire from the Lord*. Compare ch.