

Aaron had four sons, who were all priests : two of these offered strange fire before the Lord, and they were killed by fire from Heaven, Lev. x. 2. These four priests are now represented in the world by four religions, all of whom have priests. Do none of them offer strange fire before the Lord ? it certainly behoves us to see what sort of fire we are offering. Had it been a purifying fire, the result would be such as God requires. Instead of that, when we review the subject, it is evident that God's first great design which was frustrated by the poison inserted by the devil, was that man should live on this earth, and rule over every living creature and thing which God created in an innocent and happy state. Has this end yet been attained ? Has this earth yet become the kingdom of our Lord ? Has God's promise to Abraham that "all nations of the earth shall be blessed" yet been fulfilled ? if not, may we not hope that God's Holy Spirit will fulfil all this ? I have shewn you that as soon as the poison was inserted God gave man a conscience to teach him how he could recover his happy state. When men failed to listen to this still small voice, the flood swept them away. Then the patriarchal age commenced, and with it, faith in the coming Saviour ; the Jews were certainly God's chosen people, but why ? because they alone, of all the dwellers upon earth, knew the Lord. In the family of Abraham the priesthood had its origin. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are types, as it were, of the three orders of ministers, but in those days people worshipped the Sun, for we read of Joseph marrying Asenath, the daughter of Potipherah, the priest of On, Gen. xli. 45, so that it is clear that the reason why God loved the Jews was because in the midst of idolatry they loved and worshipped him alone. Then God gave man a written law which is