

## **Nadab and Abihu**

Leviticus 8 – 10

Numbers 6:22 – 8:26

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The people of Israel gathered at the Tent of Meeting. After many sacrifices Moses ordained Aaron and his sons as priests. Aaron raised his hands and said:

May the Lord bless you and protect you.  
May the Lord show you kindness and mercy.  
May the Lord watch over you and give you peace.

More sacrifices were made, when suddenly fire blazed out from the presence of the Lord and consumed everything that was on the altar. The people shouted for joy and fell face down on the ground.

Two of Aaron's sons, Nadab and Abihu, carried incense into the Tent of Meeting. But the Lord had not commanded them to burn incense; they had done it on their own. Fire blazed out from the presence of the Lord and killed them. Their bodies were carried out of the camp, and all Israel mourned.

But Moses said to Aaron and his other two sons, "Your ordination requires you to stay here at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting for seven days. If you leave, you will die." So they were not able to properly mourn for Nadab and Abihu.

Later Moses found that the sin offering sacrificed on behalf of the people had been burned up on the altar. He became very angry. "Why didn't you eat the sin offering to purify the people and make them right with the Lord?"

Aaron replied, "Today two of my sons presented offerings to the Lord. Yet now they are dead. If I had eaten the people's sin offering on such a tragic day, would the Lord have been pleased?" And Moses accepted Aaron's response.