

A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation, Part 4
Leviticus 9, 10—Jerry Cisar—September 16, 2007

Text Leviticus 9:22—10:3

I. Approaching the Holy..

RC Sproul: *“We tend to have mixed feelings about the holy. There is a sense in which we are at the same time attracted to it and repulsed by it. Something draws us toward it while at the same time we want to run away from it. We can't seem to decide which way we want it. Part of us yearns for the holy, while part of us despises it. We can't live with it, and we can't live without it.”*

God's holiness can fill us with ecstatic joy and strike us with sober terror.

A. “God meant what He said...”

i. *Among those who approach me [draw near]...*

➤ Hebrews 4:16

ii. *I will show myself holy.*

➤ Matthew 6:9, Luke 11:2

II. “Consider the kindness and severity of God.”

A. *God shows Himself Holy... and causes ecstatic joy.*

Fire > shouting for joy > falling face down in awe of God.

A holy God has come to dwell amongst His people and has made a way for them to relate to Him. They are filled with ecstatic joy and reverent fear.

B. *God shows Himself Holy...and brings sober terror.*

- Exodus 24:9-11 Nadab & Abihu knew better

Once again fire comes out from the presence of the Lord...

Once again people fall face down before the Lord... lit. *they died face down before the Lord.*

This time there is sober fear instead of ecstatic joy.

C. Aaron contemplates the severity of God...

- The weightiness of their duties in God's kingdom is emphasized(10:8-11):
- Drinking while serving could impair their ability **to teach** the statutes of the Lord.

III. Is this about you or me?

- **1 Peter 2:9**

The Gospel is our mission; and we are to live our lives as serving the King's purposes.

Allen Ross: *“What the priestly order in Israel was to do for the nation, the nation itself was to do for the world: teach the word of God, make intercessory prayer, and make provision for the people to find access to God through atonement.”*

- Acts 5 we have a parallel event...

They **weren't** influenced by wine, **but** they were influenced by the praise of men. **They were addicted to pleasing people.**

*God will be sanctified and held in honor **even now** among those who draw near... even through the blood of Christ.*

- Ephesians 5:15-18

We have a role to teach the Gospel to the nations... we can't afford to risk missing an opportunity.

In the cross of Jesus Christ God has shown Himself among us as holy:

- His Holy Love has made the way for us to come to the source of our greatest joy.
- His Holy Will demands *a response of unhesitating, unqualified obedience.*¹

When God opens our eyes we long for Him because we suddenly see the beauty of his holiness... **the source of our deepest joy; taken lightly, it is the source of our greatest terror.**

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- Ephesians 5:15-18 speaks of how we must live our lives on a Gospel mission, not allowing anything that would hinder. What other kinds of intoxication might we experience that hinder Gospel mission beside being drunk on wine itself?
- How might you need to guard your time as people on a Gospel mission to reach the nations?
- How might you approach your work as people on a Gospel mission to reach the nations?
- How might you approach your education as people on a Gospel mission to reach the nations?
- How should you handle your finances as people on a Gospel mission to reach the nations?
- How should you use your "personal time" as those who are called to be a royal priesthood and a holy nation?

1 Wording from R.K. Harrison, Leviticus (IVP Commentary), pg. 111.