

Vayikra / Leviticus 9:1-11:47, Ezekiel 36:16-38 Matthew 3:11-17

## Sanctifying HaShem (the Name of God) in our Hearts

In this week's Torah portion we read about the priests Nadav and Avihu dying before the Lord, the Masoretic Text states the following, Vayikra / Leviticus 10:1-3, אַ מַחָּמַתוֹ אִישׁ מַהָּבוֹן נַדָב וַאֲבִיהוּא אישׁ מַחָּמַתוֹ וַיָּתִנוּ בָהֶן אֵשׁ וַיַּשִׂימוּ עַלֵיהָ קטֹרֵת וַיַּקְרִיבוּ לְפָנֵי יִהוָה אֵשׁ זָרָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא צְוָה אֹתָם: ב וַתַּצָא אָשׁ מַלְפָנֵי יָהוָה וַתֹּאכַל אוֹתַם וַיַּמְתוּ לְפָנִי יָהוָה: ג וַיֹּאמֶר משה אַל-אַהַרוֹ הוּא אַשֶׁר-דָּבֵּר יִהוָה | לֵאמֹר בִּקְרֹבֵי אֵקַדֵשׁ וְעַל-פָּנֵי כַל-הַעַם אַכבד וידם אהרן: 10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. 10:2 And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. 10:3 Then Moses said to Aaron, 'It is what the Lord spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored. ''So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. (NASB) Here the Lord God states, הוא אַשֶּר-דְּבֶּר יָהוָה | לַאמר בַּקרבֵי אָקַדְשׁ "this is what the Lord said I will be sanctified through those who draw near to me." This is a significant statement for us today in light of the Lord God dwelling in our midst and in our hearts! Remember, back in Parashat Yitro (Shemot / Exodus 29:43) the Lord God said וְנֹעֲדָתִּי שַׁמַה לְבְנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל

ינקרש בּכְבֹדי "this is where I will make Myself known to the Children" of Israel, and where My glory will be sanctified." Our attitude and approach is of the greatest importance to God and to us as worshippers. Having a purity of heart (unblemished motivation, תמים) that is rooted in a desire to walk in God's ways is being illustrated here in this event of the death of Nadav and Avihu. We find these very same concepts here in the Apostolic Writings, James 4:7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 4:8 Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (NASB) and 1 Peter 3:15 but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; (NASB) Notice how James speaks of resisting the devil and cleansing our hands from sin (not practicing sin) and purifying the heart. Peter peaks of sanctifying the Lord in our hearts. This is very similar to Shemot / Exodus 29:43 הוּא אֲשֶׁר-דָּבֶּר יְהוָה | לֵאמֹר בִּקְרֹבֵי אֶקְדֵשׁ "this is what the Lord said I will be sanctified through those who draw near to me." Peter connects this sanctification of God's glory in our hearts to always thinking upon God's word which allows us to give an answer when asked for the hope that we have. Always keeping God's Word in our hearts is a Torah centric principle from Devarim / Deuteronomy 6:6-7, וְהֵיוֹן הַדְבַּרִים הָאֵלֶה אֲשֶׁר אָנֹכִי מְצַוְּךָ הַיּוֹם עַל-לְבָבֶך: ז ןשִׁנַּנְתָם לְבָנֶידְ וְדִבּּרְתָ am commanding you today are to be upon your hearts. 6:7 And you shall teach them diligently to your children and speak of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. (BSB) Here Nadav and Avihu are said to have offered strange fire, offering fire when the Lord had not commanded. The rabbinic literature describes this event in the following way according to Daat Zkenim and Ibn Ezra.

## Daat Zkenim on Vayikra / Leviticus 10:3 Part 1

בקרובי אקדש, "I will become sanctified by means of the people who had been close to Me." The very death of these people is an event which sanctifies Me. How so? If the Israelites will internalize how strict I have been with these highly placed individuals, they will know how careful they have to be not to deviate from My commandments.

The idea here is the priests come close to the Lord to sanctify themselves not by doing what they think is best but by doing what God thinks is best. This warning was given to the priests "so that the Lord will not break out against them" and this warning was given so they would be on guard to not infringe upon God's commands that he has laid down for our lives. Any deviation on their part would lead to the Lord God sanctifying His name through the immediate fatal punishment as we see here in the case of Nadav and Avihu. Note what we read in Vayikra / Leviticus 21:10-15 which states, "21:10 'The priest who is the highest among his brothers, on whose head the anointing oil has been poured and who has been consecrated to wear the garments, shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes: 21:11 nor shall he approach any dead person, nor defile himself even for his father or his mother; 21:12 nor shall he go out of the sanctuary nor profane the sanctuary of his God, for the consecration of the anointing oil of his God is on him; I am the Lord. 21:13 'He shall take a wife in her virginity. 21:14 'A widow, or a divorced woman, or one who is profaned by harlotry, these he may not take; but rather he is to marry a virgin of his own people, 21:15 so that he will not profane his offspring among his people; for I am the Lord who sanctifies him." (NASB) The point Moshe is making here is that the higher the rank of a person, the more strictly God applies his commandments on their conduct. The priest being commanded not to attend his father or mother's funeral demonstrates God's honor comes first and is not to take time out for himself for his own personal concerns. The instruction here relates to considering the things of God first and foremost. Ibn Ezra also states the following concerning *Vayikra / Leviticus 10:3*.

Ibn Ezra on Vayikra / Leviticus 10:3 Part 1

This is what God has told me God has already told me that He will manifest His holiness through those who are near Him — even if they must suffer for it, as in the

passage "You only have I known..." [Amos 3:2]. Thus the verse means, "When I manifest myself in holiness among them, then I shall be glorified; and I shall be glorified in the face of all the people, and they shall fear Me."

Ibn Ezra looks at the idea of God's holiness being manifest in His people, specifically here in the priesthood. Notice how he comments those who draw near to the Lord and suffering. This does draw in the context of our suffering for the Lord, however in this case we see Nadav and Avihu suffering because of their sins, they died, and God had sanctified His Name through that event.

In the beginning, the Lord God gave man and woman purpose. He blessed mankind to "be fruitful and multiply" in order to "fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion" (Bereshit / Genesis 1:28). This blessing upon Adam and Eve was made in Eden, the epicenter of God's relational presence in creation. The idea may have been that as this new family grew, so too would the boarders of the Garden and God's presence would go with it. This is the concept behind the kingdom of God dwelling within us, that we are to take God's presence into the world and share what He has done throughout the earth. (Bamidbar / Numbers 14:21, Tehillim / Psalms 72:19, and Isaiah 11:9). Principally, this is the gospel life, God's relational presence throughout the world. This is what we are being taught here in the book of Leviticus on the sanctification of God's people, drawing near, seeking the Lord, seeing His presence, and hearing his voice. This is why David proclaims, "in your presence there is fullness of joy, at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Tehillim / Psalms 16:11). We are to push all of our peripheral issues to the side, giving them to the Lord, and consider the things of God first and foremost, this is all that is left and all that really matters.

The verses we are looking at for this week are *Vayikra / Leviticus* 10:1-22.

## Vayikra / Leviticus 10:1-22

10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them,

placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them, 10:2 And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. 10:3 Then Moses said to Aaron, 'It is what the Lord spoke, saying, 'By those who come near Me I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored." So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. 10:4 Moses called also to Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Aaron's uncle Uzziel, and said to them, 'Come forward, carry your relatives away from the front of the sanctuary to the outside of the camp. '10:5 So they came forward and carried them still in their tunics to the outside of the camp, as Moses had said. 10:6 Then Moses said to Aaron and to his sons Eleazar and Ithamar, 'Do not uncover your heads nor tear your clothes, so that you will not die and that He will not become wrathful against all the congregation. But your kinsmen, the whole house of Israel, shall bewail the burning which the Lord has brought about. 10:7 'You shall not even go out from the doorway of the tent of meeting, or you will die; for the Lord's anointing oil is upon you. 'So they did according to the word of Moses. 10:8 The Lord then spoke to Aaron, saying, 10:9 'Do not drink wine or strong drink, neither you nor your sons with you, when you come into the tent of meeting, so that you will not die it is a perpetual statute throughout your generations 10:10 and so as to make a distinction between the holy and the profane, and between the unclean and the clean, 10:11 and so as to teach the sons of Israel all the statutes which the Lord has spoken to them through Moses. '10:12 Then Moses spoke to Aaron, and to his surviving sons, Eleazar and Ithamar, 'Take the grain offering that is left over from the Lord's offerings by fire and eat it unleavened beside the altar, for it is most holy. 10:13 'You shall eat it, moreover, in a holy place, because it is your due and your sons' due out of the Lord's offerings by fire; for

thus I have been commanded. 10:14 'The breast of the wave offering, however, and the thigh of the offering you may eat in a clean place, you and your sons and your daughters with you; for they have been given as your due and your sons' due out of the sacrifices of the peace offerings of the sons of Israel. 10:15 'The thigh offered by lifting up and the breast offered by waving they shall bring along with the offerings by fire of the portions of fat, to present as a wave offering before the Lord; so it shall be a thing perpetually due you and your sons with you, just as the Lord has commanded.' 10:16 But Moses searched carefully for the goat of the sin offering, and behold, it had been burned up! So he was angry with Aaron's surviving sons Eleazar and Ithamar, saying, 10:17 'Why did you not eat the sin offering at the holy place? For it is most holy, and He gave it to you to bear away the guilt of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the Lord. 10:18 'Behold, since its blood had not been brought inside, into the sanctuary, you should certainly have eaten it in the sanctuary, just as I commanded.' 10:19 But Aaron spoke to Moses, 'Behold, this very day they presented their sin offering and their burnt offering before the Lord. When things like these happened to me, if I had eaten a sin offering today, would it have been good in the sight of the Lord? '10:20 When Moses heard that, it seemed good in his sight. (NASB)

א וַיִּקְחוּ בְנִי-אַהָרֹן נָדָב וַאֲבִיהוּא אִישׁ מַחְתָּתוֹ וַיִּתְּנוּ בָהֵן אַשׁ וַיִּשִׂימוּ עָלֶיהָ קְטֹרֶת וַיַּקְרִיבוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֵשׁ זָרָה אֲשֶׁר לֹא צִוָּה אֹתָם: ב וַמֵּצֵא אֵשׁ מִלְפְנֵי יְהוָה וַתֹּאכֵל אוֹתָם וַיְּמֵתוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה: ג וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל-אַהְרֹן הוּא אֲשֶׁר־ דְּבֶּר יְהוָה | לֵאמֹר בִּקְרֹבֵי אֶקְּדֵשׁ וְעַל-פְּנֵי כָל-הָעָם אֶכָּבֵד וַיִּדֹם אַהָרֹן: ד וַיִּקְרָא מֹשֶׁה אֶל-מִישָׁאֵל וְאֶל אֶלְצָפָן בְּנֵי עִזִּיאֵל דֹּד אַהָרֹן וַיֹּאמֶר אֲלֵהֶם קְרְבוּ שְׂאוּ אֶת-אֲחֵיכֶם מֵאֵת פְּנִי-הַקֹּדֶשׁ אֶל-מִחוּץ לַמַּחֲנָה: ה וַיִּקְרְבוּ וַיִּשְׂאָם בְּכַתְּנֹר

תַם אֵל-מָחוּץ לַמַּחָנָה כַּאֲשֶׁר דְּבֵּר משָה: ו וַיֹּאמֵר משֶׁה אֶל-אַהָרוֹ וּלְאֶלְעָזַר וּלְאִיתָמָר | בָּנָיו רָאשִׁיכֶם אַל-תִּפָרַעוּ | וּבְגָדֵיכָם לֹא-תִפָּרמוּ וָלֹא תַמָתוּ וְעַל כַּל-הַעַדָה יִקְצף וַאֲחֵי־ ֶכֶם כָּל-בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל יִבְכּוּ אֶת-הַשְּׂרֵכָּה אֲשֶׁר שְׂרַף יְהֹוָה: ז וּמְפֶּתַח אֹהֵל מוֹעֵד לֹא תַצָאוּ פֵּן-תַּמַתוּ כִּי-שֶׁמֵן מִשְׁחַת יָהוָה עַלֵיכֶם וַיַּעֲשוֹּ כִּדְבֵר משֶה: פ ח וַיִדַבֵּר יִהוַה אֶל-אַהָרוֹ לֵאמֹר: ט יַיִן וְשֵׁכָר אַל-מֵשְׁתִּ | אַתָּה | וּבָנֶידְ אָתָּדְ בְּבֹאֲכֶם אֶל-אֹהֶל מוֹעֵד וְלֹא תָמֻתוּ חֻקַּת עוֹלָם לְדֹרֹ־ תֵיכֶם: י וּלְהַבְדִּיל בֵּין הַקֹּדֶשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל וּבֵין הַטָּמֵא וּבֵין הַטָּהוֹר: יא וּלְהוֹרֹת אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵת כָּל-הַחֻקִּים אֲשֶׁר דָּבֶּר יְהוָה אֲלֵיהֶם בְּיַד-מֹשֶׁה: פּ [רביעי] יב וַיְדַבֵּר משֶה אֶל-אַהַרֹן וְאֶל אֶלְעָזָר וְאֶל-אִיתָמָר | בַּנַיו הַנּוֹתָרִים קְחוּ אֶת-הַמִּנְחָה הַנּוֹתֶרֶת מֵאִשֵּׁי יְהֹוָה וְאִכְלוּהָ מַצּוֹת אֵצֶל ֹ הַמִּזְבֵּחַ כִּי קֹדֶשׁ קָדָשִׁים הוא: יג וַאֲכַלְתָּם אֹתָה בְּמָקוֹם קָדוֹשׁ כִּי חָקָדְ וְחָק-בָּנֶידְ הִוֹא מֵאִשֵּׁי יְהוָה כִּי-כֵן צַנֵּיתִי: יד ןאַת חֲזֵה הַתְּנוּפָה וְאֵת | שׁוֹק הַתְּרוּמָה תֹאכְלוּ בְּמָקוֹם טַהוֹר אַתַּה וּבַנֵיך וּבִנֹתֵיך אָתַּך כִּי-חַקָּדְ וְחַק-בַּנֵיךְ נִתְנוּ מִזּבְחֵי שַׁלְמֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: טו שוֹק הַתְּרוּמָה וַחֲזֵה הַתְּנוּ־ פָה עַל אִשֵּׁי הַחֲלָבִים יָבִיאוּ לְהָנִיף תְּנוּפָה לִפְנֵי יְהוָה וְהָיָה לֶךָ וּלְבָנֶיךָ אִתְּךָ לְחָק-עוֹלָם כַּאֲשֶׁר צִוָּה יְהוָה: [חמישי] טז וְאֵת | שְׂעִיר הַחַּטָּאת דָּרשׁ [חצי התורה בתיבות דרש מכאן ודרש מכאן] דָּרַשׁ מֹשֶׁה וְהִנָּה שֹׁרָף וַיִּקְצֹף עַל-אֶלְעָזֶר וְעַל-אִיתָמֶר בְּנֵי אַהָרֹן הַנּוֹתָרִם לֵאמֹר: יז מַדּוּעַ לֹא-אֲכַלְתָּם אֶת-הַחַּטָּאת בִּמְקוֹם הַקֹּדֶשׁ כִּי קֹדֶשׁ קָדְשִׁים הָוֹא וְאֹתָהּ | נָתַן לָכֶם לָשֵׂאת אֶת-עֲוֹן הָעֵדָה לְכַפֵּר עֲלֵיהֶם לְפְנֵי יְהֹוָה: יח הֵן לֹא-הוּבָא אֶת-דָּמָה אֶל-הַקֹּדֶשׁ פְּנִימָה אָכוֹל תֹאכְלוּ אֹתָה בַּקֹּדֶשׁ בַּאֲשֶׁר צְוֵיתִי: יט וַיְדַבֵּר אַהְרֹן אֵל-משֶׁה הֶן הַיּוֹם הָקָרִיבוּ אֵת-חַטַּאתַם וָאֵת-עֹלַתַם לִפְנֵי יָהֹוָה וַתִּקָרֵאנָה אֹתִי כַּאֵלֶה וָאַכַלְתִּי חַטַּאת הַיּוֹם הַיִּיטַב בּעִינֵי יִהוָה: כ וַיִּשִׁמַע משֶה וַיִּיטַב בּעִינַיו: פ

A lot of commentaries describe this situation with Nadav and Avihu as related to alcohol. The Lord states that one is not to drink wine (alcohol) when going before the Lord. (בין הַקֹּדֵשׁ וּבֵין הַחֹל) וּבֶין הַטְּמֵא וּבֵין הַטָּהוֹר: יא וּלְהוֹרֹת אֶת-בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל אֵת כַּל-הַחָּקִים אֲשֶׁר :בר יהוֹה אַלִיהֶם בְּיֵד-מֹשֶה: *Vayikra / Leviticus 21:10-15* describes this in a slightly different way speaking of how the Lord deals out justice in the midst of sin in relation to the righteous. He keeps two extremes with the righteous, one of which the Lord is more stringent with the righteous than with their contemporaries and two the Lord punishes even for the slightest sin. The reason that this is an important observation is for the people to recognize a kal vechomer. The Kal Vechomer is if the Tzadik (Righteous) were punished for a lesser sin, how much more so us and our sins! If only the big sins were punished, the people would not be able to learn this kal vechomer. This indicates for us how those who teach are held to a higher standard. (James 3:1) This is consistent with what Rashi writes: "For if not, those that were greater would say that no punishment will reach them, and only those of lesser stature would take the message to heart, and even those equal to them would not be reproved, as each one will mistakenly think he is greater than his fellow." James wrote that condemnation is to those who appoint themselves as "blind leaders leading the blind" (Matthew 15:14) in the sense that the average man does not have a right to exercise the function of the priesthood (spiritual leader) "but he that was called of God, as was Aaron" (Hebrews 5:4). This follows through the context of what we read in the Apostolic Writings that the Scribes and Pharisees loved respectful "greetings in the markets, and to be called of men 'Rabbi, Rabbi'" (see Matthew 23:1-12). The idea here is that there is one Master, Christ, and (Matthew 23:10 "But do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, and you are all brothers. NASB) The greater judgment come more strictly to the annointed priest who wasn't above death while sinning. If this is true, then how deep is the responsibility that is incurred upon those who place their faith in the Messiah Yeshua, and then teach others? In the Torah, the measure for taking an item and making it clean, it must pass through the fire, and/or through the water. In the sense of a teacher who goes before God and men, his work will be tested by fire (1 Corinthians 3:11-15) as Paul wrote to the Corinthians. The idea here is that if his

teaching is burned up, he will have escaped with his own soul and no reward will follow. Teaching God's people must be done in purity, with good intentions. What Nadav and Avihu are teaching us is to seek God's Word and His ways and not rely upon our own ways.

The rabbis comment on the way the Torah (see *Rabbeinu Bahya*, Vayikra 10:1) is written Nadav and Avihu וַיַשִימוּ עַלִיה, "they placed, on it" instead of writing וישימו עליהם, "they placed on them." (Note how there were two censers, each brother having his own censer.) The comparison is to the 250 men who offered incense (Parashat Korach, Bamidbar / Numbers 16:18) in the case of the 250 men the Torah writes, "they placed it on them," (upon the censers, plural). The instructions on the correct procedure in the Torah (Bamidbar / Numbers 16:17) Moses had told these men ונתתם עליהם קטרת "place on them incense." (No mention had been made of fire although the 250 men added their own fire.) The word עליהם as distinct from עליהם and the rabbis say this is an allusion to the attribute of Justice. The Torah is giving us an insight into the thinking of Nadav and Avihu at that time. They knew that incense was intended to counter, to stop the attribute of Justice in its tracks. This is interpreted from what Moshe did in Devarim / Deuteronomy 33:10 "they place incense to placate Your anger." The word קְּטֹרֶת itself means הָתְקַשְּׁרוּת רוח במדות, "establishing a spiritual affinity." The Aramaic translation of the word ותקשור, (Bereshit / Genesis 38:25) "she tied" is וקטרת. This spiritual affinity established by means of the incense is meant to draw down an abundance of heavenly blessings by means of the attribute of Justice, which in turn will confer these blessings on the person burning up the incense. What these things are teaching us are about the holiness of the house in which God dwells, and the importance of sanctifying the Name of God by those who draw near. Consider What Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3.

## 1 Corinthians 3:1-17

3:1 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ. 3:2 I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready, 3:3 for

you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way? 3:4 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? 3:5 What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. 3:6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. 3:7 So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. 3:8 He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. 3:11 For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 3:12 Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— 3:13 each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. 3:14 If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. 3:15 If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 3:17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (ESV)

Can you see the parallel here to the things we have been studying from the Torah on Nadav and Avihu? Paul speaks of the spiritual immaturity of the people in Corinth, and we find the spiritual immaturity of Nadav and Avihu presumptuously going before God and then dying because of their sins. Paul speaks of the person of faith becoming ground upon which the Lord plants seed and our lives bear fruit. Faith in Yeshua the Messiah causes us to become God's field, God's building (1 Corinthians 3:9). Paul goes on to describe the building upon a foundation, and doing so with precious metals, and other things. He draws in a Torah context of purification stating that all things will be revealed with fire, tested with fire, and that which is burned up a man will suffer loss. He then says that we are God's Temple, and the Spirit of God dwells within us. (1 Corinthians 3:17 If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. ESV) So the parallel may be drawn to what the rabbis discuss regarding the word קטרת meaning התקשרות רוח במדות, "establishing a spiritual affinity." The Aramaic translation of the word ותקשור, (Bereshit / Genesis 38:25) "she tied" is וקטרת. This spiritual affinity established by means of the incense is meant to draw down an abundance of heavenly blessings by means of the attribute of Justice, which in turn will confer these blessings on the person burning up the incense. What these things are teaching us are about the intentions of our heart, of purity and holiness within as being the house of God in which He dwells. This brings a wonderful context to our sanctifying the Name of God in our hearts and in our lives because we are those who draw near. It is unfortunate that this topic is rarely if ever emphasized in the church today. The holiness of God is what sanctifies us, and He did this by sending His Son Yeshua the Messiah laying his life down on our behalf. The attribute of justice God has given to us by His mercy, is due to our relationship with Him. The Lord God Almighty wants great things for us and our lives. The thing that might be holding his blessing back may be the very thing we are talking about here in this study in relation to sanctifying the Name in our hearts and in our lives. When we sanctify the Lord in our hearts, we will always be drawn to repentance before God. Just as we see how Nadav and Avihu error in the address to which they offered their incense, we do not find written in the Torah about what they did as אשׁה רִיחַ-נִיחוֹחַ לִיהוֹה, "as a fire-offering of pleasing fragrance to the Lord," but the very attribute of Justice to whom they addressed their offering smote them. This is the meaning of the words וַהְצֵא אָשׁ מִלְפָנִי יהנה וַתֹּאכַל אוֹתָם, "fire came forth from the presence of the Lord and The Torah and the Gospel Message Series

consumed them so that they died" (Vayikra / Leviticus 10:2). Let us sanctify the Lord in our hearts so His Name will be glorified! The Lord God is merciful, and we are greatly thankful for that, so we have the opportunity to repent from our sins, to start again, and to sanctify His Name in our hearts and our lives for His glory! Studying the Apostolic Writings (NT), we can see how the disciples understood these things and were teaching these things to us according to the Torah! This is how the Torah and the Gospel Message go hand in hand!