

## “A Pair of Very Strange Beasts” Leviticus 10:1-3

by William D. Barrick, Th.D.

*There is, sure, another flood toward, and these couples are coming to the ark.  
Here comes a pair of very strange beasts, which in all tongues are called fools.*  
Shakespeare, “As You Like It,” Act V, iv, 36

**Worship has always been an act of obedience.**

### I. Strange Fire (10:1a)      וַיִּקְחוּ בְנֵי־אֶהֱרֹן      1

וַיִּתְּנוּ בָהֶן אֵשׁ

וַיִּשְׂמוּ עָלֶיהָ קִטְרֶת

### II. Surprising Disobedience (10:1b)      וַיִּקְרְבוּ לִפְנֵי יְהוָה אֵשׁ זָרָה

See 1 Sam 15:22.

אֲשֶׁר לֹא צִוָּה אַתֶּם:

### III. Startling Judgment (10:2)      וַתֵּצֵא אֵשׁ      2

מִלִּפְנֵי יְהוָה

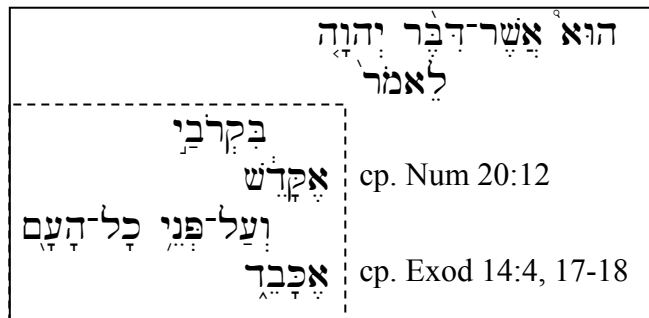
וַתֹּאכַל אוֹתָם

וַיָּמָתוּ

Cp. 1 Cor 9:24-27; 11:30

לִפְנֵי יְהוָה:

### IV. Supreme Reason (10:3)      וַיֹּאמֶר מֹשֶׁה אֶל־אֶהֱרֹן      3



וַיִּדְּם אֶהֱרֹן:

cp. Hab 2:20

See 1 Peter 1:15-16.

***The closer we are to God, the closer we must pay attention to holiness.***

Five potential views of what happened:

1. They illegally entered the Holy of Holies. – But, see verse 4.
2. They offered incense at the wrong time of day. – No evidence.
3. They offered improper incense. – But, not the wording of Exod 30:9, 37.
4. They were drunk. – Possible because of context (verse 9), but not mentioned in any other reference to this incident (Num 3:4; 26:61).

5. **They used unauthorized coals from some place other than the altar of burnt offering. – That is the wording here and it is supported by Lev 16:12-13; Num 3:4; 26:61.**

There were five other occasions when the fire of God consumed sacrifices:

1. Judges 6:20-24 – Gideon, when he was called.
2. Judges 13:15-22 – Manoah, when Samson's conception and birth were announced.
3. 2 Chronicles 7:1-3 – Solomon, when the Temple was dedicated.
4. 1 Kings 18:38-39 – Elijah, when he challenged the prophets of Baal.
5. 1 Chronicles 21:26 – David, when he consecrated the threshingfloor of Ornan.