

We are introduced to this obscure but important character in Leviticus 10. His appearance reveals a man who was humble with a servant spirit. His mission often involved dealing with extremely delicate matters discreetly. Elzaphan was a Levite. His cousins were Aaronites. Levites and Aaronites worked together in the House of God. The Tribe of Levi served the Priestly Tribe of Aaron (the “Aaronites”).

1. When all of Israel had abandoned God by worshiping the Golden Calf, there was one tribe which had remained faithful to God. Which tribe was that? (Exodus 32:26)

2. As a result of their allegiance to the LORD, they were *ordained* (‘set apart’, ‘dedicated’) for what? (Exodus 32:29)

As a Levite, Elzaphan's life was dedicated to serving others. This service was done in support of the Priests. In the New Covenant, God has also called some to dedicate their lives to serving in a supportive way to those who are called to preach and teach.

3. Read Acts 6:1-7. Note how the apostles served in a 'priestly' capacity by dedicating themselves to the ministry of the Word and prayer. Who served them, and in what way? (What was the result of the apostles being released to focus on the Word and prayer?)

4. What qualities does the New Testament prescribe for 'deacons' according to First Timothy 3:8-13?

We are introduced to Elzaphan in the midst of tragedy. His nephews were priests. But they had acted improperly.

5. What did his nephews do that was improper and how did God respond? (Leviticus 10:1-2)

At first, this may seem to be a trivial incident with a disproportionate response from God. But Leviticus 10:3 indicates that there was more to this incident than first meets the eye.

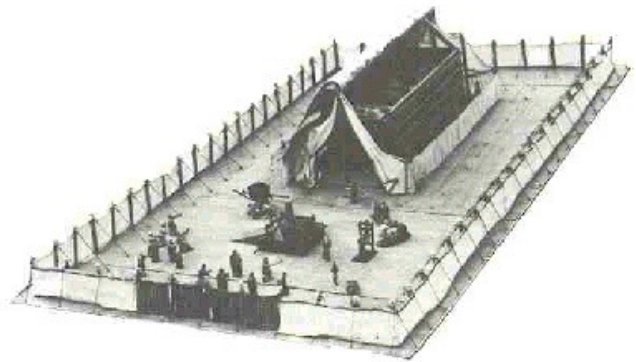
6. How does what God said to Aaron in Leviticus 10:9 indicate that Nadab and Abihu had done more than just *bring fire* into the Tabernacle?

7. How did Elzaphan respond to his cousin's directive to undertake the removal of these priests' dead bodies from the Tabernacle? (Lev. 10:4-5)

Sometimes leaders ask us to do things we don't agree with or understand.

8. What if we don't agree with our leader's decision? How does Hebrews 13:17 tell us to respond in such instances, and why? (Note Hebrews 13:7)

Elzaphan's nephews, Nadab and Abihu, had treated the sacred things of God with contempt by entering into the Tabernacle intoxicated. This flippancy with sacred things infuriated God and His judgment was swift and appropriate.

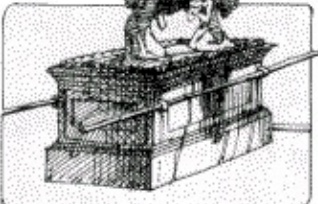
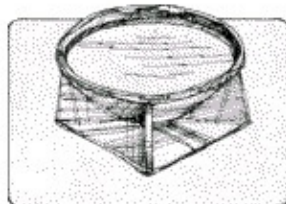
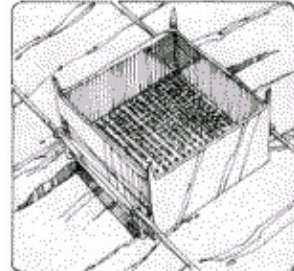

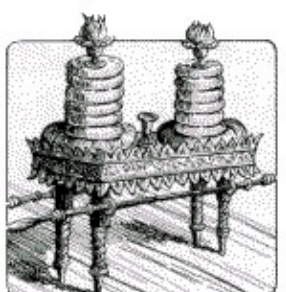
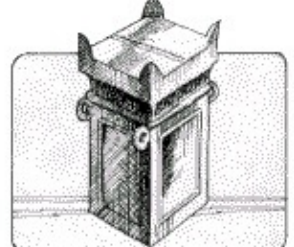


9. What instructions did the Lord give the grieving Aaron in Leviticus 10:8-11?

Elzaphan faithfully served the priests of the Tabernacle (depicted above). He was among the first generation of Levites whose task was to serve in the Tabernacle then later, the Temple. I doubt that he ever thought this would include being an undertaker to dead priests struck by God's judgment.

10. What lessons from the life of Elzaphan can we apply to our lives today?

The Furniture of the Tabernacle

		
<p>Ark of the Covenant (Ex. 25:10-22) The ark was most sacred of all the furniture in the tabernacle. Here the Hebrews kept a copy of the Ten Commandments, which summarized the whole covenant.</p>	<p>Bronze Laver (Ex. 30:17-21) It was to the laver of bronze that the priests would come for cleansing. They must be pure to enter the presence of God.</p>	<p>Altar of Burnt Offering (Ex. 27:1-8) Animal sacrifices were offered on this altar, located in the court in front of the tabernacle. The blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled on the four horns of the altar.</p>
		
<p>Golden Lampstand (Ex. 25:31-40) The gold lampstand stood in the holy place, opposite the table of showbread. It held seven lamps, flat bowls in which a wick lay with one end in the oil of the bowl and the lighted end hanging out.</p>	<p>Table of Showbread (Ex. 25:23-30) The table of showbread was a stand on which the offerings were placed. Always in God's presence on the table were the 12 loaves of bread representing the 12 tribes.</p>	<p>Altar of Incense (Ex. 30:1-10) The altar of incense inside the tabernacle was much smaller than the altar of burnt offering outside. The incense burned on the altar was a perfume of sweet-smelling aroma.</p>

Amen.