

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Strange Fire

Study Guide

New Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - Strange Fire

Part One of Two

October 17, 2013

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21.

Major Themes

The Nature of Strange Fire

The sin of Nadab and Abihu involved offering unauthorized fire, intruding into the high priest's role, and acting in pride and disobedience, not merely a technical violation.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that 'strange fire' means common or unauthorized fire, and that they 'intruded into that aspect of the priestly office, which they had absolutely no authority to go into.'

Failure of the Levitical Priesthood

The immediate failure of the priesthood on its first day demonstrates that it could not bring perfection, necessitating a greater High Priest, Jesus Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We're being taught that perfection is not by the Levitical priesthood... the absolute need of another priesthood and of a greater priest.'

Authority and Servanthood

Those in authority must know their place and responsibilities, serving as servants under God's authority, not acting arrogantly or beyond their bounds.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God will never use you in a position of authority until you learn to be in submission to His authority.'

Worship According to God's Commands

Worship is for God, not for man's pleasure, and must be done according to His explicit commands, without adding or subtracting.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes, 'We do not do in God's worship that which we think is pleasing... Worship is really not for us. It's for God.'

The Danger of Pride

Pride led Nadab and Abihu to exalt themselves and act presumptuously, a warning for all in positions of authority.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'Pride goeth before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Does not pride haunt all of us?'

Key Arguments

The sin was more than just using wrong fire

Nadab and Abihu's sin included pride, unauthorized intrusion into the high priest's role, and disobedience to God's specific commands.

Lecture support: Weaver summarizes: 'their sins included lifting themselves up in pride, rushing rashly into the holy place, and assuming a duty which only Aaron their father was obligated to perform.'

The Levitical priesthood was designed to fail

The immediate failure of the priesthood on its first day shows that it was never intended to bring perfection, pointing to Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'As soon as the Levitical priesthood was established, we see its failure. The very first day.'

Authority is limited and must be exercised as a servant

Both civil and spiritual rulers have delegated authority from God and must not act as lords but as servants, knowing their place.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Every ruler, civil or spiritual, is to be a servant.'

Worship must be according to God's commands, not human innovation

God alone determines what is acceptable in worship; adding or subtracting from His commands is sinful.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We have the privilege of doing that which God commands. We do not have the privilege of adding to what He commands, or subtracting from what He commands.'

Scripture References

Leviticus 10:1-3

The account of Nadab and Abihu offering strange fire and being consumed by fire from the Lord.

Leviticus 10:9

Prohibition against drinking wine or strong drink when entering the tabernacle, possibly related to the sin.

Exodus 29:40

God required wine as part of the drink offering, showing wine was not inherently prohibited.

Leviticus 23:13

Another reference to wine being part of the drink offering.

Leviticus 10:6-7

Prohibition for Aaron and his family to mourn the deaths of Nadab and Abihu.

Leviticus 9:24

Fire came out from the Lord and consumed the burnt offering, and the people shouted and fell on their faces.

Leviticus 16:12

God commanded that fire for incense be taken from the altar.

Leviticus 16:1-2

God told Aaron not to come at all times into the holy place, only when directed.

Luke 1:8-9

Zacharias executed the priest's office in the order of his course, showing only one priest could burn incense at a time.

Exodus 30:8-9

God forbade offering strange incense, implying strange fire was also forbidden.

2 Chronicles 26:14-21

King Uzziah intruded into the priest's office to burn incense and was struck with leprosy.

Deuteronomy 12:32

God commands not to add to or diminish from His commands.

Revelation 22:18-19

Warning against adding to or taking away from the words of the prophecy.

Romans 15:4

Things written aforetime were written for our learning.

Leviticus 8:33-36

Aaron and his sons were consecrated for seven days before their service began.

Hebrews 9:6-11

The Holy Ghost signified that the way into the holiest was not yet made manifest; Christ entered by His own blood.

Hebrews 10:1-7

The law had a shadow of good things, but the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins; Christ came to do God's will.

Hebrews 7:11-17

If perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, there would be no need for another priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Deuteronomy 17:18-20

The king was to write a copy of the law and read it all his life, that his heart be not lifted up above his brethren.

1 Peter 5:1-4

Elders are to feed the flock, not as lords but as examples.

Discussion Questions

1. What were the multiple sins involved in Nadab and Abihu's offering of strange fire, and why was the punishment so severe?

Consider: Weaver explains that their sin included pride, unauthorized intrusion, and disobedience, not just using wrong fire.

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2. How does the failure of the Levitical priesthood on its first day point to the necessity of Christ's priesthood?

Consider: Weaver argues that the immediate failure shows the law could not perfect, requiring a greater High Priest.

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3. In what ways do modern civil and spiritual leaders fail to know their place and responsibilities, and what are the consequences?

Consider: Weaver applies the lesson to politicians and pastors who act arrogantly or beyond their authority.

4. What does it mean that worship is for God and not for us, and how should that shape our corporate worship?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that God determines what is acceptable in worship, not human preferences.

5. How can we balance following spiritual leaders while ensuring we ultimately follow Christ alone?

Consider: Weaver notes Paul's example of following him as he followed Christ, and the danger of looking to men.

Applications

Worship must be according to God's commands

We must ensure our worship is based on Scripture, not human innovation or preference, because God alone determines what pleases Him.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We do not do in God's worship that which we think is pleasing... Worship is really not for us. It's for God.'

Submit to God's authority before exercising authority

Before God will use someone in a position of authority, they must learn to be in submission to His authority.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God will never use you in a position of authority until you learn to be in submission to His authority.'

Look to Christ, not to men

We should follow spiritual leaders only as they follow Christ, and ultimately trust in Christ alone who never fails.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'If you look to men, you will be disappointed... we're to look to Christ, the God-man, who is most absolutely perfect.'

Rulers must be taught their duties and limits

Civil and spiritual rulers need continual instruction from God's Word to know their place and responsibilities as servants.

Lecture support: Weaver references the founding of the U.S. where election sermons were preached to rulers, and Deuteronomy 17:18-20.

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Strange Fire

Part Two of Two

October 17, 2013

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-38.

Major Themes

Rebellion in Authority

Even lawfully appointed individuals in legitimate offices can act rebelliously against God or the people, becoming traitors to their oaths.

Lecture support: The speaker discusses how Nadab and Abihu were genuine priests but rebelled, and applies this to civil rulers who violate the Constitution.

Will Worship

Inventing one's own mode of worship apart from God's command is a serious sin, equivalent to offering strange fire.

Lecture support: The speaker defines will worship as 'a mode of worship which man chooses for himself independently of the revelation which God has given' and cites Colossians 2.

Limits of Parental Influence

No parent, regardless of office or godliness, can save or sanctify their children; each person must personally repent and believe.

Lecture support: The speaker states, 'There's absolutely nothing that parents can do to save their children' and uses Aaron and Moses as examples.

Divine Justice and Retribution

God's judgments are righteous, and He often makes the punishment fit the crime, as seen in the lex talionis.

Lecture support: The speaker explains that Nadab and Abihu sinned by fire and died by fire, citing Exodus 21 and Galatians 6.

Holiness and Nearness to God

Greater nearness to God demands greater holiness; God will be sanctified in those who serve Him.

Lecture support: The speaker references Leviticus 10:3 and Hebrews 12:14 to emphasize that holiness is required to see the Lord.

The Dual Effect of God's Word

The same gospel that saves some hardens others; God is glorified both in salvation and in judgment.

Lecture support: The speaker cites 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 and notes that Aaron held his peace because God is glorified in both outcomes.

Key Arguments

Rebellion can exist in lawfully ordained offices

Nadab and Abihu were legitimate priests, yet they rebelled. Similarly, civil rulers can violate their oaths and become traitors.

Lecture support: The speaker states, 'Rebellion may exist in lawfully ordained offices and by lawfully appointed individuals' and discusses constitutional oaths.

Will worship is a grave sin

Adding human inventions to God's prescribed worship is treason and idolatry, as seen in Nadab and Abihu's strange fire.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'Will worship is strange fire that which God has commanded them not' and cites Colossians 2:23.

A holy office does not sanctify the officeholder

Neither Aaron's priesthood nor Moses' unique offices could save Nadab and Abihu; salvation is personal.

Lecture support: The speaker argues, 'A holy office will not save or sanctify an unholy man, neither will it save or sanctify his unholy children.'

God's judgment is always righteous

Aaron was forbidden to mourn because God's judgment was just; we must always side with God even when it affects our family.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'When God judges our children, we must always side with the Lord' and references Genesis 18:25.

The punishment fits the crime

Nadab and Abihu sinned by fire and were destroyed by fire, illustrating the biblical law of retribution.

Lecture support: The speaker explains lex talionis and cites Exodus 21:24-25 and Galatians 6:7-8.

Holiness increases with nearness to God

Those who serve God closely must be increasingly holy, as God will be sanctified in them.

Lecture support: The speaker quotes Leviticus 10:3 and Hebrews 12:14.

God's Word brings life or death

The same gospel is a savor of life to believers and death to unbelievers; God is glorified in both.

Lecture support: The speaker cites 2 Corinthians 2:14-16 and notes that Aaron held his peace because God is glorified either way.

Presumptuous sin leads to sudden destruction

Nadab and Abihu were struck down instantly without time to repent, warning against delaying repentance.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'They died in the very act of their sin' and quotes Proverbs 29:1.

Scripture References

Leviticus 10:1-3

The account of Nadab and Abihu offering strange fire and being consumed by fire from the Lord.

Hebrews 10:1-4

The law is a shadow of good things to come, but the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins.

Psalms 82:6-7

God tells judges they are 'gods' but will die like men if they abuse their authority.

2 Kings 11:17

Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people.

2 Chronicles 23:16

Jehoiada made a covenant between himself, the people, and the king that they should be the Lord's people.

1 Samuel 12:24-25

Samuel warns that if the people do wickedly, both they and their king will be consumed.

Psalms 2:1-3

The kings and rulers take counsel against the Lord and His anointed, wanting to break free from God's authority.

Psalms 94:20

The throne of iniquity, which frames mischief by law, cannot have fellowship with God.

Colossians 2:18, 23

Paul warns against voluntary humility, worship of angels, and will worship, which have a show of wisdom but are not from God.

1 Samuel 13:8-14

King Saul offered a burnt offering without authority and was told his kingdom would not continue.

Numbers 3:1-4

Nadab and Abihu died before the Lord and had no children.

1 Chronicles 24:2

Nadab and Abihu died before their father and had no children.

Psalms 55:23

Deceitful men shall not live out half their days.

Jeremiah 22:28-30

God declares Coniah childless and that none of his seed will prosper on David's throne.

Deuteronomy 32:5

Moses was king in Jeshurun.

Deuteronomy 18:15

Moses prophesied that God would raise up a prophet like him.

Exodus 21:24-25

The law of retribution: eye for eye, tooth for tooth, burning for burning.

Galatians 6:7-8

Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap; sowing to the flesh reaps corruption.

Hebrews 12:14

Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

We are a sweet savor of Christ: to the saved, a savor of life; to the perishing, a savor of death.

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways might we be guilty of 'will worship' today - adding our own preferences to God's prescribed worship?

Consider: The speaker defines will worship as inventing modes of worship independently of God's revelation.

2. How should we respond when we see leaders (civil or spiritual) acting rebelliously against God's commands?

Consider: The sermon discusses rebellion in lawfully ordained offices and the covenantal nature of government.

3. What does it mean to 'side with the Lord' when He judges someone close to us, and how can we practically do that?

Consider: Aaron was compelled to acknowledge God's righteous judgment on his sons without mourning.

4. How does the principle of lex talionis (the punishment fits the crime) shape our understanding of God's justice?

Consider: The speaker explains that Nadab and Abihu sinned by fire and died by fire.

5. Why is it dangerous to assume we can delay repentance until later in life?

Consider: Nadab and Abihu were struck down suddenly without time to repent, illustrating the folly of presumptuous sin.

6. How can we cultivate greater holiness as we draw nearer to God in service and worship?

Consider: The speaker emphasizes that God will be sanctified in those who come near Him.

7. In what ways have you experienced the 'two-edged sword' nature of God's Word - either drawing you closer or revealing hardness of heart?

Consider: The same gospel is a savor of life to some and death to others.

8. How does the failure of the Levitical priesthood point us to the sufficiency of Christ's priesthood?

Consider: The speaker notes that the Levitical priesthood could not make anyone perfect, pointing to Jesus.

Applications

Examine Worship Practices

Evaluate whether any elements of worship are based on human preference rather than God's command, and remove anything that constitutes 'strange fire.'

Lecture support: The speaker warns against will worship and innovation in God's service.

Respect God's Prescribed Order

Recognize that God has ordained specific roles and responsibilities; do not assume authority or roles not given by God.

Lecture support: Nadab and Abihu assumed the high priest's role and were judged.

Trust God's Righteous Judgments

When God brings judgment or difficult circumstances, especially involving family, acknowledge His righteousness and do not complain.

Lecture support: Aaron held his peace and was forbidden to mourn.

Pursue Personal Holiness

As you grow closer to God, strive for greater holiness, knowing that God will be sanctified in those who serve Him.

Lecture support: The speaker cites Leviticus 10:3 and Hebrews 12:14.

Repent Without Delay

Do not presume upon God's patience; repent and believe now, as judgment can come suddenly without opportunity for repentance.

Lecture support: Nadab and Abihu died in the act of sin without time to cry for mercy.

Recognize the Limits of Parental Influence

While parents should teach and pray, they cannot save their children; each person must personally repent and believe.

Lecture support: The speaker states that even Aaron and Moses could not save Nadab and Abihu.

Submit to God's Authority in All Spheres

Whether in civil or spiritual matters, recognize that all authority is covenantal and accountable to God; obey God rather than men when commands conflict.

Lecture support: The speaker discusses the covenants in 2 Kings 11:17 and the rebellion of rulers.

Accept the Dual Effect of the Gospel

Understand that the same gospel message will either draw people to Christ or harden them; do not be surprised by either response.

Lecture support: The speaker explains the two-edged sword from 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Strange Fire - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01364

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01364&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01364&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Strange Fire - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01365

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01365&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.