

# Strange Things in the Old Testament.

Exodus 30:9

## Introduction:

- A. “Strange” is found at least 64 times in the King James Old Testament.
  - 1. It does not generally mean “odd,” but a foreigner or alien.
  - 2. It is mostly used of being foreign to Israel, or foreign to the commands of God.
- B. “Strange” things of the Old Testament can provide valuable lessons for us (cf. Rom. 15:4)

## Discussion:

### I. Strange Gods (Josh. 24:15-23)

- A. Our strange gods are not graven images.
  - 1. It is covetousness or greed and materialism (Col. 3:5; Matt. 6:24).
  - 2. It is the satisfaction of fleshly desires (Phil. 3:19; Rom. 16:18).
- B. Our strange gods are controlling forces engraved into our minds that displace service to God.
  - 1. Work
  - 2. Family
  - 3. Sports/recreation
  - 4. Appetites, etc.

### II. Strange Wives (1 Kings 11:1-4)

- A. Troubled Solomon greatly.
- B. Troubled Israel often (Ezra 10:2-4; Neh. 13:23-27)
  - 1. Compromised their devotion to God.
  - 2. Compromised the purity of their children (Neh. 13:24)
- C. Troubles Christians when they marry strangers to the faith.
  - 1. “But, what about exceptions, like Ruth” (Ans. Smoking and longevity)
  - 2. “But, what about those already married.”
    - a. Marrying outside Israel was unlawful, so the marriages were to be dissolved.
    - b. Marrying outside the church is not unlawful, just very unwise, not to dissolve (1 Cor 7:12ff)
    - c. Marrying outside the law of God still requires one to dissolve (cf. Matt. 14:4)

### III. Strange Fire (Text, Lev. 10:1-4).

- A. Reflected disregard for holy things.
- B. Reflected disrespect for divine authority.
  - 1. It was fire that the “Lord commanded not.”
  - 2. It was presumption on their part.
- C. Many today are offering “strange” things in worship and service to God.

### IV. Strange Slips (Isa. 17:10).

- A. “Slips” refers to vine slips, like our sweet potato slips.
- B. Israel forgot the source of their strength and looked to “foreign slips”
  - 1. Made alliances with foreign nations and adopted their ways.
  - 2. Instead of strengthening them it weakened them greatly.
- C. Sometimes the church (spiritual Israel) forgets the source of their strength.
  - 1. Think it is in community acceptance by being more “mainstream.”
  - 2. Think it is in physical facilities that can compete with denominations.
  - 3. Think it is in visible progress that can be compare with others.
  - 4. Think it is in more “programs of activities” that us seem dynamic to our neighbors.
- D. Our real strength is in doing God’s work in His way.

## Conclusion:

- A. Beware of Strange Things.