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 at 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.

Another Sermon by Edward O Bragwell