

1 Chronicles 23:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.

Analysis

The description of Aaron's consecration: 'Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, that he should burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.' Aaron's line was 'separated' (hivdil - set apart) for unique priestly functions - sanctifying holy things, burning incense, ministering, and pronouncing blessings. The repetition 'for ever' emphasizes the perpetual nature of this priesthood. Yet Hebrews 7:10 shows this earthly priesthood pointed to Christ, the eternal High Priest whose ministry truly is 'forever.' Believers now participate in Christ's priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices and blessings.

Historical Context

David's organization of Levites (c. 975 BCE) prepared for Solomon's temple by systematizing priestly duties. This structure, though modified post-exile, shaped Judaism until the temple's destruction in 70 CE, when Christ's priesthood was revealed as the fulfillment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding your calling as part of Christ's royal priesthood affect your daily life and worship?
2. What 'spiritual incense' - prayers and praises - are you offering as a priest before God?

Interlinear Text

אֶחָד	לִזְבֵּחַ	אֶת	עַמְקָם	וּבְנֵי	אֶת	אֶחָד	לִזְבֵּחַ	אֶת	עַמְקָם	וּבְנֵי
The sons	of Amram	Aaron	and Moses	was separated	Aaron					
H1121	H6019	H175	H4872	H914	H175					
לְפָרָקְדִּישׁוֹ	מִן	קָדְשׁוֹ יְמִין	הִוא	קָדְשׁוֹ יְמִין	וּבְנֵי	עַד	עוֹלָם:	עַד	עוֹלָם:	עַד
that he should sanctify	holy things	holy things	H1931	The sons	for	ever				
H6942	H6944	H6944	H1121	H5704	H5769					
לְפָרָקְדִּיר	לִפְנֵי	לְשָׁרֶת וְ	לִבְכָּר בְּ	בְּשָׁם וְ						
to burn incense	before	the LORD	to minister	unto him and to bless	in his name					
H6999	H6440	H3068	H8334	H1288	H8034					
עַד	עוֹלָם:									
for	ever									
H5704	H5769									

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 6:20 (References Moses): And Amram took him Jochebed his father's sister to wife; and she bare him Aaron and Moses: and the years of the life of Amram were an hundred and thirty and seven years.

Deuteronomy 21:5 (Blessing): And the priests the sons of Levi shall come near; for them the LORD thy God hath chosen to minister unto him, and to bless in the

name of the LORD; and by their word shall every controversy and every stroke be tried:

1 Samuel 2:28 (Parallel theme): And did I choose him out of all the tribes of Israel to be my priest, to offer upon mine altar, to burn incense, to wear an ephod before me? and did I give unto the house of thy father all the offerings made by fire of the children of Israel?

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