

1 Chronicles 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Ahimaaz begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Johanan,

Analysis

Ahimaaz begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Johanan—this genealogical link within the high priestly line connects two significant names. Ahimaaz (אַחִימָעָץ) 'my brother is counsel') served as high priest during David's reign, while Azariah (עֲזַרְיָה) 'Yahweh has helped') became high priest under Solomon, serving in the temple Solomon built (v. 10).

The repetition of Azariah in this lineage is significant: at least five high priests bore this name (also called Uzziah), demonstrating how names commemorating Yahweh's help became foundational in Israel's worship leadership. Johanan (יּוֹחָנָן) 'Yahweh is gracious') continues the theophoric naming pattern, each generation embedding covenant theology into family identity.

This priestly succession bridges the tabernacle era (mobile sanctuary) and temple era (permanent sanctuary), showing God's faithfulness to the Aaronic priesthood promise despite changing worship contexts. The genealogy anticipates Christ as our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), whose priesthood supersedes Aaron's line.

Historical Context

This genealogy traces the high priestly line from Aaron through Zadok to the First Temple period (970-586 BC). Azariah son of Ahimaaz likely served during Solomon's prosperous reign when the Jerusalem temple replaced the tabernacle at Gibeon. The Chronicler, writing to post-exilic priests reestablishing temple

worship, emphasizes legitimate priestly descent—crucial for those challenged by Samaritans claiming equally valid priesthoods descended from northern Israel.

Related Passages

John 15:13 – Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How do the theophoric names ('Yahweh has helped,' 'Yahweh is gracious') in this priestly line testify to experienced grace rather than empty tradition?
2. What does this unbroken priestly succession teach about God's faithfulness to His covenant promises despite human unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

וּפְנֵם:	אַת	הַוִּיל	יָד	אֲחִים	עַז	יְהוָה	עַזְרָה	יְהוָה	אַת	הַוִּיל	יָד	אַת	הַוִּיל	יָד
And Ahimaaz	begat	H853	Azariah	Azariah	begat	H853	Johanan							

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