

Deuteronomy 10:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From thence they journeyed unto Gudgodah; and from Gudgodah to Jotbath, a land of rivers of waters.

Analysis

And Eleazar his son ministered in the priest's office in his stead. The priestly succession from Aaron to Eleazar demonstrates both continuity and limitation of the old covenant ministry. Continuity because the priesthood continues despite individual death; limitation because succession is necessary.

The phrase in his stead indicates replacement - Eleazar takes Aaron's place because Aaron can no longer serve. This revolving succession of priests illustrates the temporary nature of the Aaronic priesthood. Each generation requires new priests as the old die.

Reformed theology sees this succession as revealing the priesthood's inadequacy to provide permanent mediation. If the Aaronic priesthood could perfect worshipers, no succession would be needed. The need for replacement priests testified that the old covenant system could not provide ultimate reconciliation between God and humanity.

Christ's priesthood requires no succession - He ever lives to make intercession (Hebrews 7:25). His resurrection guarantees permanent, unchanging advocacy for believers. We need no new mediator because the one Mediator never dies.

Historical Context

Eleazar succeeded Aaron and served throughout the conquest of Canaan under Joshua's leadership. The high priesthood descended through Eleazar's line (rather than Ithamar's line) for most of Israel's history.

Priestly succession continued until the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, when the temple and priesthood ended, having been fulfilled and superseded by Christ's superior high priesthood.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What does priestly succession reveal about the temporary nature of the old covenant system?
2. How does Christ's eternal priesthood provide greater security than changing human priests?
3. Why was continuity of priestly ministry important despite the limitation of mortal priests?
4. In what ways does Christ fulfill and supersede the Aaronic priesthood?
5. How should Christ's permanent priesthood affect our confidence in approaching God?

Interlinear Text

מִשָּׁם	וַיֵּסְעוּ	וּמִן הַגִּדְגָּה	וּמִן הַגִּדְגָּה
H8033	From thence they journeyed	and from Gudgodah	H4480 and from Gudgodah
	H5265	H1412	H1412
יָסַב תְּהַ	אֶרֶץ	נְחָלִי	מַיִם:
to Jotbath	a land	of rivers	of waters
H3193	H776	H5158	H4325

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org