

Exodus 28:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.

Analysis

Aaron and his sons are consecrated 'to minister unto me in the priest's office.' God chooses and calls His priests; they don't self-appoint. Aaron represents Christ our High Priest (Hebrews 5:4-5), while Aaron's sons represent believers as a kingdom of priests (1 Peter 2:9). The specific naming (Aaron, Nadab, Abihu, Eleazar, Ithamar) shows that priestly service involves particular callings, not generic spirituality. God knows His servants by name.

Historical Context

From Aaron's line alone could legitimate priests descend, establishing clear succession that would continue until Christ, the ultimate High Priest. This Aaronic priesthood mediated between God and Israel for over a thousand years, until Christ's once-for-all mediation superseded it.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's specific calling of priests encourage you about His particular calling on your life?
2. In what ways does Christ fulfill everything Aaron's priesthood foreshadowed?

Interlinear Text

בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְאַתָּה יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ
H859 **And take** H413 H853 **Aaron's** H175 **thy brother** H251 H853 **and his sons** H1121
וְיָשָׁב אֶל־יְהוָה וְשָׁמַר אֶת־כָּל־מִצְוֹתַי
H854 **with him from among** H8432 **and his sons** H1121 **of Israel** H3478
לְכַהֵן לִּי
that he may minister unto me in the priest's office H3547
וְנָדָב וַאֲבִיהוּ וְאַהֲרֹן וְעִלְעָזָר
H0 **Aaron's** H175 **Nadab** H5070 **and Abihu** H30
וְאִיתָמָר וְאֶהֱרֹן וְבְנָיו
Eleazar H499 **and Ithamar** H385 **and his sons** H1121 **Aaron's** H175

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 18:7 (Parallel theme): Therefore thou and thy sons with thee shall keep your priest's office for every thing of the altar, and within the vail; and ye shall serve: I have given your priest's office unto you as a service of gift: and the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.

1 Chronicles 6:10 (Parallel theme): And Johanan begat Azariah, (he it is that executed the priest's office in the temple that Solomon built in Jerusalem:)

Deuteronomy 10:6 (References Israel): And the children of Israel took their journey from Beeroth of the children of Jaakan to Mosera: there Aaron died, and

there he was buried; and Eleazar his son ministered in the priest's office in his stead.

Numbers 26:61 (Parallel theme): And Nadab and Abihu died, when they offered strange fire before the LORD.

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