

Exodus 40:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou shalt anoint them, as thou didst anoint their father, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office: for their anointing shall surely be an everlasting priesthood throughout their generations.

Analysis

Anointing Aaron's sons establishes their priesthood 'throughout their generations' (לְדֹרֹתָם, ledorotam). The phrase 'everlasting priesthood' (כִּהְנוּנַת עוֹלָם, kehunnat olam, perpetual priesthood) teaches covenant continuity—God's priesthood endures across generations until fulfilled in Christ's eternal priesthood (Hebrews 7:24, ἀπαράβατος, permanent/unchangeable). The anointing's efficacy 'for ever' doesn't mean Aaronic priesthood never ends but that its purpose—mediation—continues until accomplished perfectly in Christ. Believers' priesthood (1 Peter 2:9) participates in Christ's eternal ministry.

Historical Context

The Aaronic priesthood continued approximately 1,500 years (Moses to Christ), spanning multiple generations. The 'everlasting' language indicated permanence until fulfilled, not absolute endlessness. Christ's priesthood after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:15-17) superseded Aaron's line when the true High Priest came.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the Aaronic priesthood's 'everlasting' yet temporary nature illustrate Old Testament shadows fulfilled in Christ?
2. What does Christ's permanent priesthood replacing Aaron's line teach about the New Covenant's superiority?

Interlinear Text

מָשַׁח תָּהָה	כָּאֲשֶׁר רָאִיתָ מִ	מָשַׁח תָּהָה	אֶת	אֲבִיהֶם
And thou shalt anoint	H853	And thou shalt anoint	H853	their father
H4886		H4886		H1
וְיָכֹהֵנִי	לְקָהֵן	לְהִי	וְהִיָּה	לִי
that they may minister unto me in the priest's office	H0	H1961	H1961	
H3547				
לְהִי	מִשְׁחָתָם	לְקָהֵן	עוֹלָם	
H0	for their anointing	priesthood	shall surely be an everlasting	
	H4888	H3550	H5769	
לְדֹרֹתָם:				
throughout their generations				
H1755				

Additional Cross-References

Numbers 25:13 (Eternal Life): And he shall have it, and his seed after him, even the covenant of an everlasting priesthood; because he was zealous for his God, and made an atonement for the children of Israel.

Psalms 110:4 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

