

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' (לדורותם, ledorotam). The phrase 'everlasting priesthood' (עולם, 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 Christ's priesthood after the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:15-17) superseded Aaron's line when the true High Priest came.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

מִשְׁחָתָה	רָאַתָּה	מִשְׁחָתָה	אָבִיךָ מִאָתָה
And thou shalt anoint	H853	And thou shalt anoint	H853
	H4886		H1
וְכִבְנֵה		לְקֹדֶשׁ	
that they may minister unto me in the priest's office	H3547	H0	H1961
לְכִבְנָה תִּמְשִׁחָתָה מִ		לְקֹדֶשׁ תִּמְשִׁחָתָה מִ	
לְבָם		לְבָם	
for their anointing	H4888	priesthood	H3550
		shall surely be an everlasting	H5769
לְדִרְתֵּם:			
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.

