

Hebrews 5:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

Analysis

The divine calling ('called of God') distinguishes legitimate priesthood from self-appointment. Aaron represents the OT pattern where God sovereignly chose priests from Levi's tribe. No one could presume to take this honor upon himself. This principle establishes that priestly ministry requires divine appointment, not human ambition or qualification, pointing to Christ's superior appointment.

Historical Context

Aaron's appointment is recorded in Exodus 28:1. The Aaronic priesthood was hereditary and exclusive to one family line. False priests like Korah (Numbers 16) who presumed the office faced divine judgment.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding ministry as divine calling rather than human achievement change your view of service?
2. In what areas might you be tempted to presume roles God has not called you to fill?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐχ	έαυτῷ	τις	λαμβάνει	τὴν	τιμήν	ἀλλὰ	ό
And	no	unto himself	man	taketh	G3588	this honour	but	G3588
G2532	G3756	G1438	G5100	G2983		G5092	G235	
καλούμενος	ὑπὸ	τοῦ	θεοῦ	καθάπερ	καὶ	ό	Ἀαρών	
he that is called	of	G3588	God	as	And	G3588	was Aaron	
G2564	G5259		G2316	G2509	G2532		G2	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 28:1 (Parallel theme): 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.

Numbers 16:40 (Parallel theme): To be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that no stranger, which is not of the seed of Aaron, come near to offer incense before the LORD; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses.

1 Chronicles 23:13 (Parallel theme): The sons of Amram; Aaron and Moses: and Aaron was separated, that he should sanctify the most holy things, he and his sons for ever, to burn incense before the LORD, to minister unto him, and to bless in his name for ever.

2 Chronicles 26:18 (References God): And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense:

go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God.

Numbers 16:5 (Parallel theme): And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

John 3:27 (Parallel theme): John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

Numbers 16:35 (Parallel theme): And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men that offered incense.

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