

Numbers 20:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Moses stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount: and Moses and Eleazar came down from the mount.

Analysis

Moses 'stripped Aaron of his garments, and put them upon Eleazar his son; and Aaron died there in the top of the mount.' The succession was complete—Aaron died immediately after divesting, emphasizing that his role was finished and God's purposes continue through new leadership. Death on the mountaintop parallels Moses' later death on Nebo, both excluded from Canaan yet granted dignified, ordered transitions.

Historical Context

Aaron's death at 123 years old (33:39) ended 40 years of high priesthood from Sinai's golden calf incident until this moment. His burial place on Mount Hor remained known in ancient times (Deuteronomy 32:50).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What does God's timing of Aaron's death teach about His sovereignty over leadership transitions?
2. How can you finish well in your calling, even when disqualified from certain future hopes?

Interlinear Text

אָמַם תַּלְבֵּשׂ שְׁלֹבֶשׂ בְּנֵדֶךְ אֶת אַבְרָהָם אֶת מִשְׁהָה וַיַּפְשַׁט
stripped And Moses H853 Aaron H853 of his garments and put H854
H6584 H4872 H175 H899 H3847

בָּרָא שְׁמַע אֶלְעָזָר אֶת מִתְּמִתְבָּבְן וְאֶלְעָזָר
and Eleazar his son died Aaron there in the top
H853 H499 H1121 H4191 H175 H8033 H7218

מִן מִלְּאָלָעָזָר רַמְשָׁה וְאֶלְעָזָר רַמְשָׁה
from the mount came down And Moses and Eleazar H4480 from the mount
H2022 H3381 H4872 H499 H2022

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:6 (Parallel theme): 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.